

TATTOO LIFE

TATTOO LIFE

n° 76

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editorial

Dear reader of *Tattoo Life*...



Henk Schiffmacher, better known as Hanky Panky, is surely one of the most famous tattoo artists in the world; he's a popular figure who needs no introduction and who has dedicated his life to this art since the beginning of the 1970's.

Hanky Panky has been an active promoter of tattoo culture; he has produced video documentaries, he has written books and he has masterminded exhibitions in museums and galleries. He organized the first tattoo conventions in Europe and created the Amsterdam Tattoo Museum which we covered extensively in the last edition of *Tattoo Life*.

My last editorial was dedicated to the importance of this project which has finally got underway and to the value of this Museum for collectors and lovers of this art like myself, and I wanted to thank him publicly for all that he has done for the world of tattooing. Henk asked if he could respond to the editorial in his own hand by way of an open letter which follows here, in full, which is our usual style.

Dear reader of *Tattoo Life*,

There are many publications, edited, manufactured and distributed by non-tattooed businessmen who also organize conventions and manufacture and sell tattoo products, like vegetarians running a butcher's shop, like priests running a whorehouse, like a tattoo-artist without tattoos.

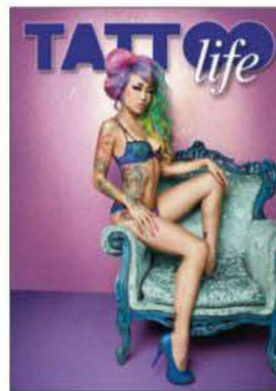
This publication in your hands is made by a man that lives for tattooing, is heavily tattooed himself and is a dedicated member of the Tattican. Organizer of the world's best tattoo shows with international character, publisher of several tattoo magazines and great books on our art. He also runs a fucking fantastic website (www.tattoolifegallery.com) and all this makes him a respected and loved figure in the world of tattooing, someone we can talk to, ask questions, show our work.

"Mister Italia Tatuaggi" Miki Vialeto, with a personality like a member of a film cast from 'In the Name of the Rose', a judge from the inquisition, carefully listening, relaxed, quick answers, quick questions. The world could use more people like this Italian Napoleon. A tattoo business run by tattooed people!

We at the Amsterdam Tattoo Museum are proud to find an ally in this man, and I am grateful for his continuous support, and for the opportunity to address you all in this column, the editor's page, the most important page. I hope he will invite some more of the old guard to do likewise in the future of this magazine. Thank you Miki, and thank you reader for supporting the Amsterdam Tattoo Museum. So now go to our website (www.amsterdamtattoomuseum.com) or visit us, for donations and so on. Artists who'd like to demonstrate their tattooing are welcome to sit in as guest-artists among international tattoo stars.

Henk Schiffmacher aka Hanky Panky

by Miki Vialeto



Photography: Christian Saint
facebook.com/thechristiansaint
Cover Model / Makeup / Styling: Amelia Nightmare
demonpuff@gmail.com
Hair: Daved Munoz

contents

n°76

06 **Spy**
ARTISTIC TRENDS

08 **Shopping**
LIFE IN STYLE

10 **Music**
MASTODON
By Simone Sacco

12 **New Sounds**
ECHOES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

14 **Irezumi**
Appointment with
traditional Japanese
tattooing.
By Matti Senju Sedholm Horimatsu



20 **MILAN**
Excitement at the 17th edition
of the long-awaited Italian
convention.
By Margherita Baleni



30 **Cover girl**

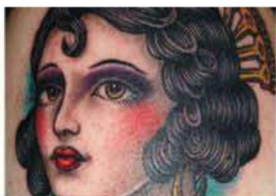
AMELIA NIGHTMARE

By Simone Sacco



34 **MARCO CERRETELLI**

An Italian in Hollywood: the story of *The Honorable Society*.
By Marco Annunziata



40 **Internet**

THE BEST SITES ON THE WEB

42 **Book**

Animal Ink. Exploring the World's Wildlife Through Tattoo Art:
the new book by
Mike DeVries.

44 **Agenda**

International appointments
with ink

46 **Culture**

The fascinating history of
tattooing in medieval culture.
By Luisa Gnechi Ruscone

50 **BERLIN**

Tattoos and trends in the great
German metropolis.
By Stefania Perosin



56 **Koolsville: Artist's Choice**

A beautiful exhibition
at Jack and Carrie
Rudy's gallery.

60 **GEORGE MAVRIDIS**

The Greek face of tattooing.
By Stefania Perosin



68 **BRIGHTON**

The fifth convention
in the town of the Mods.
By Roy Micuzzi



76 **Paintings**

Carlos Torres
By Maurizio Caneloro

80 **People**

Ashley "Treasure" Theophane
The 'treasure' of English boxing.
By M.C.

85 **FLASH OTTO**

91 **TATTOO COLLECTION**

TATTOO life

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www.tattoolife.com/digitalversion

NUNQUAM DORMIO (VOL. I) TATTOO NEVER SLEEPS

Omertá Publications is a publishing house founded by Jason June of Three Kings Tattoo in Brooklyn and Javier Betancourt from Ocho Placas Tattoo in Miami. This duo has just published their first book which features the works of 30 international tattoo artists, including the work of friends and colleagues and also 'influencers'. Each has a short portfolio and a presentation sheet containing contact information. This first edition is limited to 150 copies. If you are curious to see which artists are featured and who was at the inauguration visit their blog. Don't fall asleep right now!

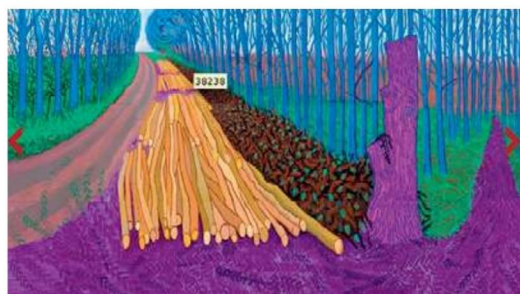


Nunquam Dormio (vol. I)
127 colour pages, hardcover
Publisher: Omertá Publication
omertapublications.wordpress.com

DAVID HOCKNEY

Instant iPad Art

David Hockney is one of the leading exponents of Anglo Saxon Pop art; he was born in 1937 and founded the figurative element characteristic of his art, which is not just limited to painting. He has struck again, this time in collaboration with iPhone and iPad and this encounter with technology has led to a series of landscapes, mostly open air landscapes which were typical of the nineteenth century. No portraits, private pools, living rooms or terraces this time. Instead we have Nature in acid or psychedelic colours, children of the screen which transform visions from another age into



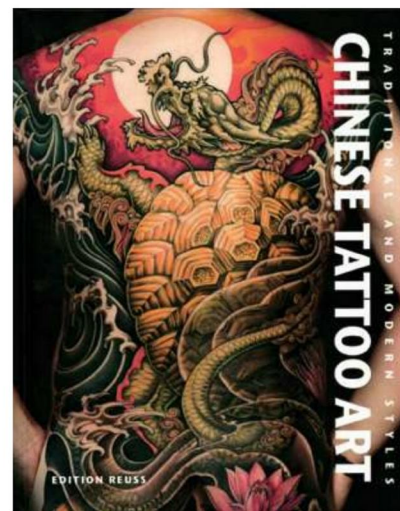
new school perceptions! "I draw flowers every day and I send them to my friends, so they have fresh flowers every day", he says recommending *Brushes* for iPad, his favourite app...

Until 30th September 2012
Guggenheim Museum - Bilbao
Abandoibarra Etorbidea, 2
48011 Bilbao, Spain
www.guggenheim-bilbao.es

CHINESE TATTOO ART

TRADITIONAL AND MODERN STYLES

A big volume that traces the history of Chinese tattooing in almost 500 large-format pages. An immense work which dates the beginning of tattooing in China to 4801 years ago. Chinese tattooing is discussed alongside its Japanese counterpart, outlining a series of differences and similarities through the analysis of popular Mandarin mythology and Japanese mythology. It covers contemporary subjects as well as tattoo artists who explain in their interviews how they came to be at the forefront of international tattooing, reinterpreting the most traditional Chinese art with their tattoo gun: calligraphy which has integrated fully in the creation of human and animal figures and subjects. It is an invaluable book to learn about tattoo art in the former Maoist country, and to understand the extent of the diffusion of this art form.



Chinese Tattoo Art
Traditional and Modern Styles
496 colour pages, hard cover
Publisher: Edition Reuss
www.edition-reuss.de



FRANCESCA WOODMAN

Francesca Woodman's work is a rich and unique exploration of the human body and in particular self portraits. Works which combine realism with emotion, thirty years after the death of this artist who became



a photographer at the age of thirteen.

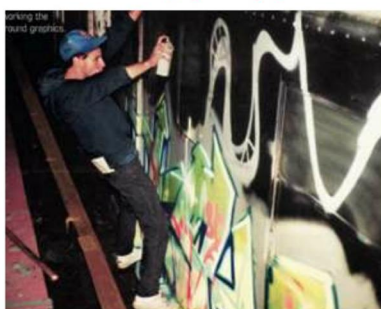
Until 13th June 2012
New York - Guggenheim Museum
www.guggenheim.org

NEW YORK CITY GRAFFITI THE DESTINY CHILDREN

Graffiti Art has become extremely widespread, making an appearance in some of the most renowned international galleries, kids in sweatshirts and hoodies rub shoulders with historical and famous names. The lines of spray paint, the rounded contours, the luminous and 3D effects which are typical of this style have entered other art cultures, like tattooing for instance, with its funny style, cartoons and lettering. This book, *New York City Graffiti*, dedicated to the team from *The Destiny Children*, brings together famous names such as Zoo, Epic, Sho, DC3, Bom 5 Mw, Shoroz, to name but a few...More than three hundred colour pages show

the rebellion of this group of angry kids who were documented from 1985 to 2000. There are photographs showing them at work, having fun, and also on the run from the police during their unpredictable adventures.

**New York City Graffiti
The Destiny Children
344 colour pages, hard cover
Publisher: Schiffer
www.hopeyouenjoytheride.com**

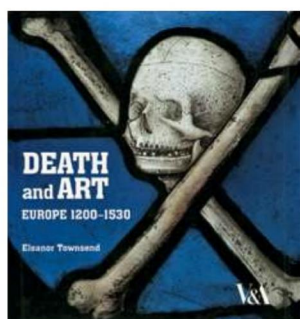


BEING SINGULAR PLURAL



Industrial spaces, empty, or non-places: they are not just paintings but belong to the poetics of some contemporary tattoo artists. Video, interactive works and sound equipment featuring seven of the most innovative artists in India today.

**Until 6th June 2012
Guggenheim Museum
New York
www.guggenheim.org**



DEATH and ART EUROPE 1200-1530

This is not a new volume but it has made a comeback thanks to a new distribution. It is a monograph about the role of classical art in death

and dying; sculptures, churches, architecture, paintings and engravings. Eleanor Townsend – who has already published a valuable book on Gothic art in England – retraces European history from the thirteenth to the first half of the sixteenth century for this edition for the Victoria and Albert Museum. It is a compendium which sets out beliefs surrounding death and its representation through the Middle Ages and the Renaissance and is a must for all lovers of horror, fantasy and dark. You won't find easy symbols to use, but a mixture of fear of the inevitable and religious beliefs which Catholic Europe shaped into visual art in the form of altars, tombs, paintings, protective jewellery and burial rites.

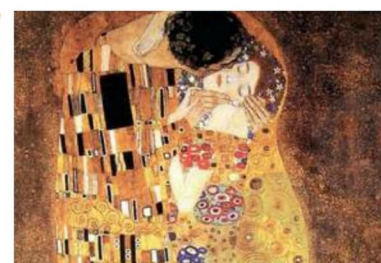


**Death and Art
Europe 1200 – 1530
by Eleanor Townsend
96 colour pages, hardcover
Publisher: V&A
www.vam.ac.uk**

2012 the years of GUSTAV KLIMT

**Vienna celebrates
Art Nouveau**

2012 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Gustav Klimt. A trip to Vienna in May is a must, the month that the exhibition season opens in the Austrian capital and they celebrate one of the geniuses of painting and the pioneer of Modernism in the early twentieth century. Oberes Belvedere is well



worth a visit and apart from the grandeur of the palace, it is the best place to see some of the most striking works of Art Nouveau with colours and huge feminine figures, much larger than expected; here you can also find some notable works of Klimt. But this year private collections and museums all over the world will be packed with his paintings, sketches and sculptures which will then be gathered for a cycle of temporary exhibitions at the Vienna Museum, the Kunsthistorisches Museum, the Leopold Museum and throughout Vienna, with some appearances in other parts of Europe. A celebration not to be missed.

**www.austria.info
www.wienmuseum.at
www.belvedere.at
www.khm.at**

SHOPPING

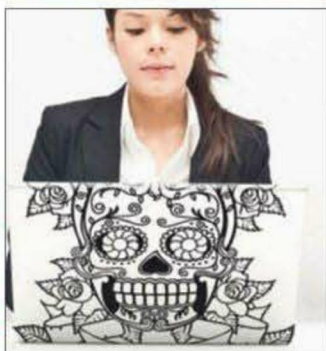
A SELECTION OF FUN AND IMAGINATIVE DESIGNS, PERFECT FOR ANYONE WANTING TO BRING THEIR PASSION FOR TATTOOING INTO THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE. YOU CAN SHOW IT ON THE WALLS IN YOUR HOUSE WITH BEEPART'S DECALS; YOU CAN DRESS IN RABBIT APPAREL'S ECO-FRIENDLY T-SHIRTS AND ADORN LIPS AND NAILS WITH TEMPORARY TATTOOS FROM VIOLENT LIPS AND STICKERS FROM NAIL ROCK. DISCOVER THE LATEST FROM THE BIG NAMES: HARLEY DAVIDSON, WHO HAS RENEWED THEIR COLLECTION; PRADA WHO HAS A RANGE OF ACCESSORIES WHICH ARE FLAMBOYANT TO SAY THE LEAST – AND CONVERSE, WHO ARE CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON WITH AN ORIGINAL PRINT ON THEIR CLASSIC CANVAS SNEAKERS.



TATTOO THE WORLD

In every house and in every office there lurks the inevitable small, bare corner which we look at in dismay: it may be a bare wall which as the years go by we never get around to filling. At last here's a quick solution to personalise all your rooms with fun images, inspired by classic tattoo iconography. Thanks to the Beepart vinyl decals, Japanese carp and traditional swallows will grace the walls of your house adding a touch of fantasy and frivolity. They are ideal for interior and exterior use, they are easily applied and removed

and last for years. There is also a range of decals for you to personalise your laptop...Don't leave anything to chance! www.beepart.com



NAIL ROCK

ROCK YOUR LOOK!

No self-respecting woman can give up the habit of varnishing her nails, perhaps matching them to an outfit. Nail Rock combines tattoos, trends and vibrant colours and proposes a series of stickers that can be applied quickly and easily, to decorate nails with the best of traditional: hearts, anchors, flames and the inevitable swallows. They last seven days, they don't split and they can be easily removed. www.asos.com: Nail-Rock



Oh, Little Rabbit is a small business founded in 2010 by Jason and Cara Hibbs. Specialists in prints and illustrations, they offer a wide variety of items for the household as well as a range of eco-friendly clothing. Amongst these are the wonderfully soft t-shirts and bodies for babies, in 100% cotton, printed using non-toxic inks which are free from harmful chemicals. The prints feature beautiful and original hand-painted designs; vessels, pierced hearts and pin up are definitely tattoo-inspired, but there are also romantic pistols which shoot out flowers, poetic divers and, of course, cute bunnies which seem to leap off the pages of a storybook. Perfect for being used, beaten, washed and worn again, for adults and kids alike. www.ohlittlerabbit.com





NEW COLLECTION

Harley Davidson has a new collection with many technical proposals for the motorcycle season as well as casual clothes. The creative hand of the Harley-Davidson stylists brings us the new Black Label collection, which is characterised by the slim fit cut and the latest Scottish theme.



Leather jackets and gloves, shirts in technical breatheable fabric, pure cotton shirts with long and short sleeves and slim cut sweatshirts. Check out the site for more information.
www.harley-davidson.com



For anyone seeking a truly amazing look, temporary tattoos for lips are a must. Formulated with moisturizing vitamins they are easy to apply and last from four to eight hours. Animal prints, pastel stripes and breathtaking glitter will decorate your lips and transform them into colourful and original tattoos: cause a sensation on a fun or unusual night out.

www.asos.com: Violent-Lips



CONVERSE

"I put some new shoes on"

Converse is also celebrating the Year of the Dragon in the Chinese calendar with a limited edition for connoisseurs: it's the All Star Chuck Taylor Chinese New Year model and is available in the high-cut version. The sole and laces are bright red, whilst the canvas is decorated with a splendid motif which reminds us of some of the best oriental black and grey tattoos. Great news for the women's collection which features studs, sequins and polka dots.
www.converse.com



PRADA

HOT (ROD) PRADA



Prada has fallen under the spell of the 50's, which has always been a favourite theme of tattoo lovers. The famous name has created a range of shoes for their Spring/Summer 2012 collection, inspired by the famous Eldorado of '59, but more generally by the American cars of the era. Fins, head lights, flames and tail lights adorn the feet and heels of the trendiest celebrities who stand out in these vertiginous heels. Even the accessories – belts and bags – feature bright leather inserts with roses, flaming lips and juicy cherries. New pinups which don't forsake fashion.
www.prada.com



MUSIC

Text by Simone Sacco

'THE HUNTER' IS THE ONLY ALBUM (FRESH AND DIRECT, A REAL PUNCH IN THE STOMACH) THAT MASTODON COULD BRING US FOLLOWING THE VISIONARY *TOUR DE FORCE* OF 'CRACK THE SKYE'. AND BRANN DAILER (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DAVE GROHL...) IS THE ONLY CONTEMPORARY DRUMMER WHO CAN ASPIRE TO BE ON THE THRONE OF THE GREATEST. WE INTERVIEWED HIM AND PUT IN WRITING HIS DEEP PASSION FOR ALL THAT IS TATTOO ART...

WWW.MASTODONROCKS.COM - WWW.MYSPACE.COM/MASTODON



BRANN DAILOR SEEMS TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT TATTOO ART... Well yes. Over the years I've had most of my body tattooed: my torso, back, legs. At the moment I'm finishing a big-piece dedicated to

the Yeti, alias the Abominable Snowman who lives somewhere in the Himalayas... (chuckles, Ed.)

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS WORLD? YOU'RE ORIGINALLY FROM NEW YORK STATE RIGHT?

Right, I was born in Rochester in 1975 and, therefore, my relationship with tattooing started many years ago. I could tell you that I fell in love with tattoo art when I was a teenager, as that's the time in your life when you start to take an interest in particular things, and that I got into tattooing thanks to Guns 'N' Roses or Mötley Crüe, but it wouldn't be true. I'd be romanticizing...

WHO, THEN, GOT YOU INTO THE SCENE?

A gang of motorcyclists! I had motor biking friends who used to go to Monsters Ink in Ronkonkoma (www.monstersinktattoos.com) and from then on there was no escape! (Laughs, Ed.) I remember my first tattoo was this: a small caricature of John Travolta because I was crazy about 'Saturday Night Fever'!

MEANWHILE, THOUGH, YOUR COLLECTION HAS GROWN...

Yes, I still really like colourful tattoos but now I prefer a wide range of subjects: Japanese, horror, religious, mystics etc. Let's say that, for me a good tattoo has to have a meaning behind it. I mean it should be symbolic.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVOURITE TATTOO ARTISTS?

I've got loads but if I had to pick out a couple then I'd say Karl Cooper from England and Bob Tyrrell from the USA. But there are too many, and to be honest I don't remember them all!

WHICH TATTOO DO YOU LIKE THE BEST?

This one (he pulls down his T-shirt to reveal a heart right next to his neck, Ed.).

It's a kind of flaming heart which rises into space. It's dedicated to my sister Skye who took her own life when she was 14 years old (Mastodon's undisputed masterpiece 'Crack The Skye' is dedicated to this person, Ed.). It's very symbolic and it's a way of having her close to me.

DO YOU HAVE ANY TATTOOS DEDICATED TO MASTODON? WITH ALL THE AMAZING COVERS THAT DECORATE YOUR ALBUMS, I IMAGINE YOU MUST HAVE BEEN TEMPTED...

I was actually thinking about getting a reinterpretation of 'The Hunter' tattooed on my back...Right now though the answer is no: I don't have any tattoos of my band. I'm just happy playing this music every night and admiring the 'Mastodon-style' tattoos displayed by our fans.

WOULD YOU EVER GET A TATTOO ON YOUR FACE LIKE YOUR COLLEAGUE BRENT HINDS?

No, I don't think so. But Brent looks great: it's perfectly in line with his personality and the rest of the tattoo art that makes him stand out.



WHAT DOES 2012 HOLD IN STORE FOR MASTODON, BRANN?

We'll be on the road all year and probably for the best part of 2013. We'll continue to collect riffs on tour day after day, and sooner or later there will be a follow-up to 'The Hunter'. But don't ask me what it'll sound like. We go with the inspiration of the moment. We play and... that's it!

Line-up

Brent Hinds - vocals, guitar
Bill Kelliher - vocals, guitar
Troy Sanders - vocals, bass
Brann Dailor - vocals, drums

Album

The Hunter

Label

Roadrunner/ Warner

Photos

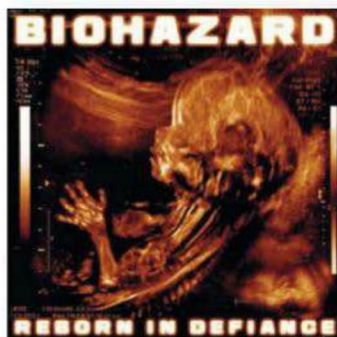
Roadrunner (band)

Simone Sacco (Brann Dailor's tattoos)



BIOHAZARD

REBORN IN DEFIANCE
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

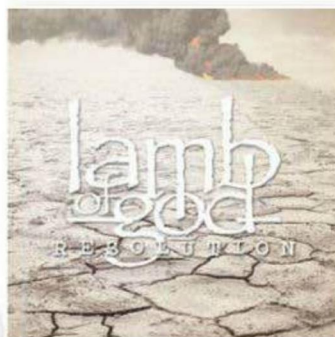


The bass guitarist Evan Seinfeld is no longer with the group (he left for other shores: you know which ones...) but he still plays on this album. Just like Bobby Hambel of Biohazard (at least up until 'State Of The World Address' of '94) he was always the creative element, whilst the veteran and extremely tattooed Billy

Graziadei makes his usual flamboyant and melodic contributions. Of course, there was a lot of doubt surrounding 'Reborn In Defiance', I must add that I'm not starting (and this needs to be written down!) with the famous New Yorkers. Critics thought they had become weak on account of releasing too many albums on autopilot, from 'Mata Leão' onwards. And it was feared there would be a hiatus which would leave too many cobwebs on their severe hardcore-metal. And yet the album really works. Old-style pieces like 'Come Alive', the winning songwriting on 'Season The Sky', not to mention the sadness that sticks in your throat with 'Wows Of Redemption'. It's all good, but with Evan now gone the 'new' Biohazard will have to roll up their sleeves again and work really hard. But that's always been their mission...

LAMB OF GOD

RESOLUTION
(EPIC/ ROADRUNNER)



The Panthers said their bitter goodbyes in 2001 (I shan't go into what happened next – sigh! – to the poor Dimebag Darrell who was gunned down at a gig in Ohio). They broke up after an epic fight in Ireland, a country which has always nurtured strong reactions and bloodshed. They left a void of course,

but Lamb Of God (who started out as Burn The Priest) were able to fill it with their talent and intelligence. Seven fabulous albums – including the latest 'Resolution' – and an innate desire to accomplish three things which in heavy metal have always been considered as the ultimate panacea: pump groove, radiate technique and experiment without fear. The innovations here are to be found in 'Insurrection' (listen to Randy Blythe's clean vocals!), 'King Me' which has the luxury of a lyrical voice and a large orchestra and 'The Number Six' which is similar to 'Wrath' which was never fully understood. Tradition prevails, however in 'To The End' which is pure Panther sound, filtered with sensitivity by the dear Lamb. Bring on the applause!

LONYEN

UNTER DIE HAUT
(ODD-SOUND)

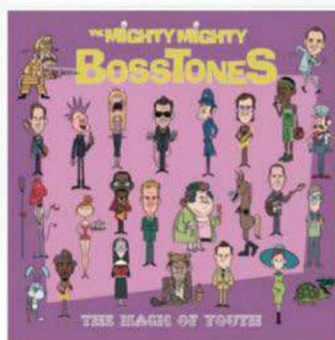


The 16th March was the release date for Lonyen's debut album (the famous German tattoo artist who specialises in Japanese style). The title, 'Unter Die Haut' says it all (it is German for 'Under the Skin') and its creator Lonyen (in the past a drummer with the punk band The Idiots)

has been surrounded by many hot names in German hip hop such as MoTrip and Silla, Sido, J-Hype, Manuellsen as well as hard core legends such as Freddy Cricien of Madball and the fabulous 'Never Forget'. The style (100% hip hop) is easily explained by Lonyen himself "A few months ago I finally found the time to put down my tattoo machine, take a pen and start writing a few good lyrics". "Because – and he continues – rap, just like tattoo art is a creative way of expressing my feelings and thoughts through a way of life". Don't miss it! For more information: www.lonien-online.de

MIGHTY MIGHTY BOSSTONES

THE MAGIC OF YOUTH
(BOSSTONES MUSIC)



Let's not beat about the bush: the guys from Boston (where else, with a name like that...) Mighty Mighty Bosstones are a true legend on the American punk scene. They debuted in 1983 and many believed them to be the inventors of the subgenre "ska-core", a really successful movement from the 90's. OK, so it's a bit

anachronistic to talk of ska-core in 2012? Perhaps, but the Bosstones are in no way recycling themselves with this new offering which goes by the name of 'The Magic Of Youth'; they are aware of the fact that the upbeat guitars are a bit 'aged' and they receive just the right treatment ('Sunday Afternoons On Wisdom Ave.') featuring a more contemporary sound but without deviating from the formula that made them famous ('They Will Need Music'). Perhaps they are lacking in hit singles like 'Someday I Suppose', but the record offers 40 minutes of complete insouciance. News: you can listen to the band's lead singer, Dicky Barret, every week as announcer on Jimmy Kimmel Live! – the famous talk-show from the USA. It's a laugh!

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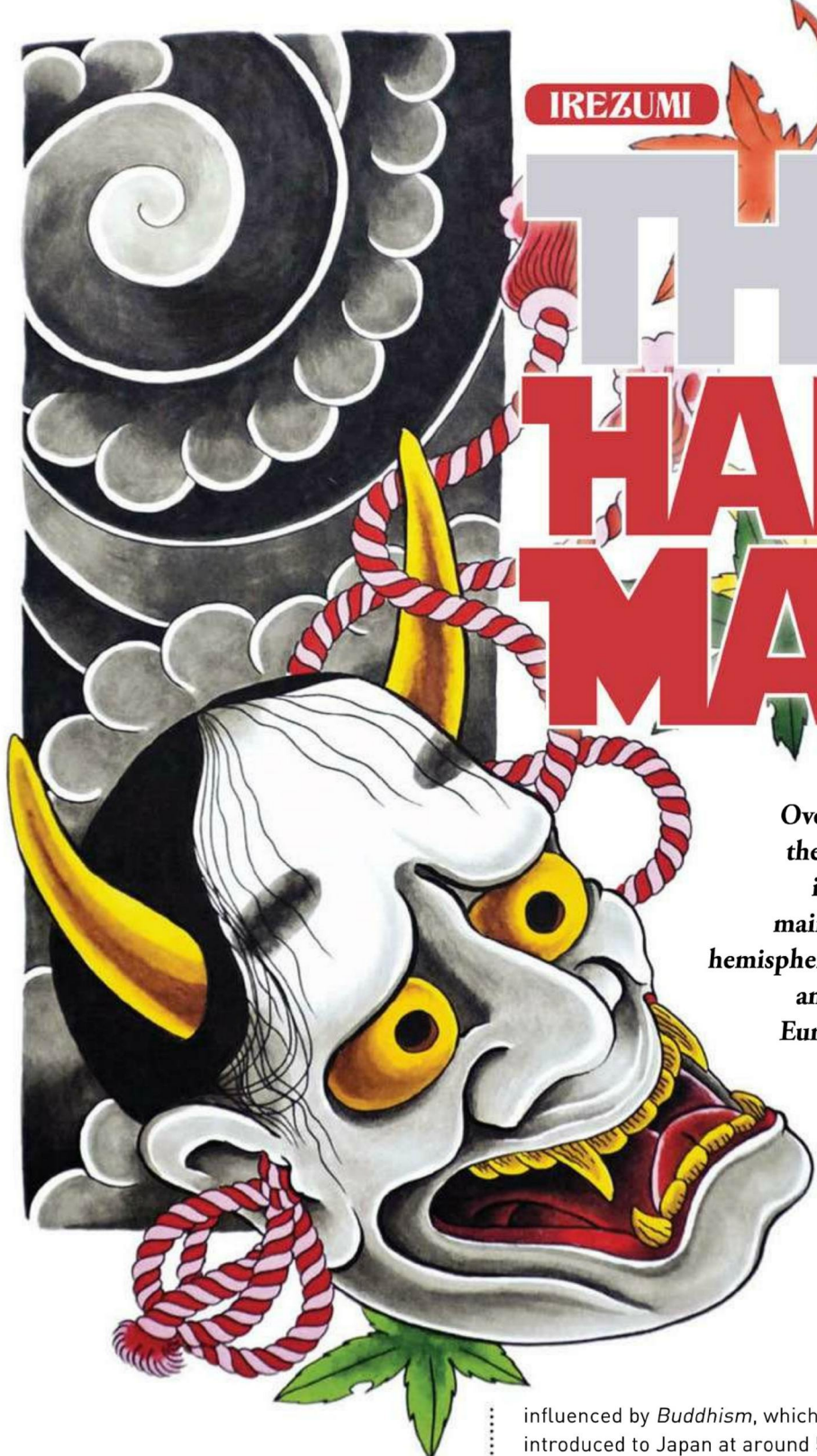
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IREZUMI

THE HANNYA MASK

Text by Matti Senju Sedholm Horimatsu

Over the past 20 years the influence of Irezumi, the traditional Japanese tattoo, has gained ever increasing momentum and is now one of the main disciplines within tattooing in the western hemisphere. This has fostered dozens of highly skilled and dedicated practitioners of the tradition in Europe as well as the United States. Around the aesthetical corner many more are waiting to continue the work already started by the few pioneers of previous generations.

When a highly prolific tradition like Irezumi, takes a leap from its cultural birthplace and settles in its new environment conflicts arise due to the main differences in social and historical context and heritage. The traditional Japanese tattoo is born out of a culture highly

influenced by *Buddhism*, which was introduced to Japan at around 530 AD, and the indigenous religion of *Shinto*. Over the centuries these two belief systems have merged in the Japanese mind of existence and laid the foundation of a highly unique way of viewing and experiencing the world we live in.

It is therefore very difficult for a mind influenced by the western and traditionally *Christian* way of interpreting life, to gain a proper understanding of how to use and decipher the imagery used within the tradition of Irezumi. In order to not

fall face down in the muddy puddle of misuse and confusion, it is critical to do away with western ideas of good and evil, *monotheism* (the belief in just one true god) and the illusion of everlasting and eternal. In the Japanese way of thinking and feeling everything takes place within an ever changing gradation of greys. Black and white or the easy to define outer limits of behavior no longer apply.

In this article, the first in an ongoing series of writings on the subject, I hope to shed light upon some crucial aspects of how to approach its foundations. This is of course done in a spirit of trying to help and guide those who feel the true call of the tradition. This also applies to those who simply want to get tattooed because they nurse a



Hannya Tattoo by Alex Kofuu Reinke Horikitsune



Hannya Tattoo by Alex Kofuu Reinke Horikitsune

strong attraction to the graphic language and spiritual content of the traditional Japanese tattoo. Where could be better to start than with the image of the *Hannya* mask. Being one of the most commonly used Japanese tattoo designs in the west, alongside the *Koi* (carp) and *Ryu* (dragon), it is perhaps also one of more misinterpreted icons of Irezumi.

The Hannya mask is used in Japanese *Noh* theatre. This ancient form of drama traces its origins back to the *Nara period* (710-794) during which a popular entertainment form called *Sangaku* was imported from *China* to Japan. Over the centuries it slowly matured and developed into what is today recognized as *Noh*. The *Noh* theatre is a blend of somewhat melancholic drama, music and





dance in which many of the actors rely on the use of a special kind of mask in order to express the emotions of their character before the audience.

The Hannya mask is exactly that – a mask. It is made out of *cypress*, *paulownia* or other light wood. Noh masks are usually between 7 and 9 inches tall, and often smaller than the face of the actors wearing them. The mask is secured through the use of strings tied together at the back of the head. These strings usually emerge from the area where the ears are, or should be. The name Hannya has conflicting origins, but the word Hannya *itself* is used within Japanese Buddhism and translates as *insight*. It is in itself not one specific character but

is rather used to portray individual female characters in various Noh plays. All these women share the inner characteristics this mask successfully conveys in the classic facial features of sorrow, jealousy and anger. Even though the Hannya mask is traditionally categorized as a *demon* mask, it is not the type of evil entity that we usually speak about in the west. The women portrayed with the use of the Hannya mask are human beings that find themselves turning into *ghosts*, at the edge of sanity, either through being infested with jealousy, or utterly betrayed by other humans, be it an unfaithful husband, murderous lord or unresponsive object of romance and passion. The bulging eyes show tension and somewhat confused madness, as they separate the lower part, with its golden fangs betraying raw aggression, and the top half where the brow rather expresses that of a very sad person. The horns sprouting from the forehead of this



sad but highly dangerous human being stems from the age old popular folk belief that women in general have horns. This is why still today Japanese brides cover their heads with a white silk cloth. This piece of headwear is called *Tsunokakushi* which translates into *Horn hider*.

In short, the Hannya mask is a whirlpool of conflicting and contradicting impulses. So it is basic human emotions that the mask seeks to express and not those of some otherworldly creature from the shadowy underworlds. In all reality, these very human feelings can be highly frightening to any person confronted with someone subjected to them.

As a design used in Irezumi it is first and foremost a lucky charm. Because of its highly dangerous inner qualities it easily wards off almost any evil and protects its wearer. Best used together with more benevolent Buddhist items and symbols, like a *scroll* containing a sacred text (*sutra*) or perhaps a *Vajra* (Buddhist weapon) clenched between its teeth.

Most Hannya masks used in Noh are white with black disheveled strands of hair betraying the insane state of the person portrayed. To this is added eyes, animal-like fangs and sharp horns all painted in gold. There are also some versions displaying a more reddish skintone called

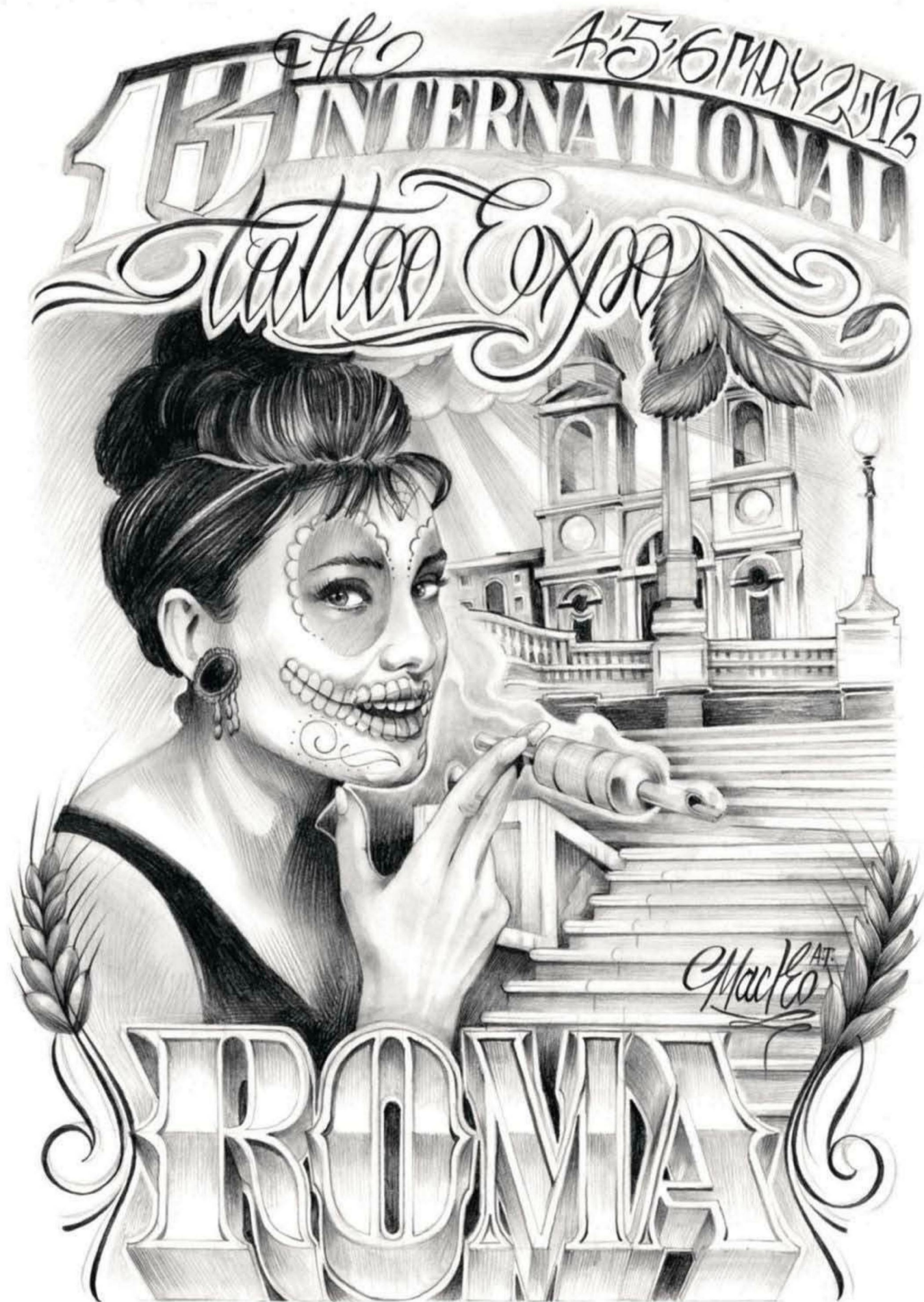


Painting by Horiyoshi III

Aka-Hannya (red Hannya). To this date I have not seen a proper Hannya used in Noh that is either blue, purple or green, and I would personally not use those colors for a Hannya under any circumstances. It is also important to try to catch the duality of the character, that delicate balance of pitiful sorrow and blind aggressiveness that lashes out in desperation.



Tattoo by Matti Senju Sedholm Horimatsu



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XVII

MILANO

Tattoo Convention

Text by Margherita Baleni
Photos by Debora Marcati

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YOU CAN SUM UP THE MILAN TATTOO CONVENTION IN ONE SENTENCE: AN ACTIVE PRINCIPLE FROM WHICH A KALEIDOSCOPE OF VITAL FORMULAS IS RELEASED INTO A UNIQUE ATMOSPHERE, WHICH IS ALSO A BREATH OF LIFE. AND IT'S DIFFICULT NOT TO BE INFECTED BY THIS ATMOSPHERE. EACH MOLECULE FROM THE ALCHEMIST'S POTION WHICH EXPLODED AT THE ATA QUARK HOTEL MILAN THROUGHOUT THE THREE DAYS, IS A PRECIOUS SOURCE OF ENDLESS COMBINATIONS OF NEW IDEAS: LIFE-LIKE WORKS CARRIED OUT ON SKIN THAT REVEAL IN AN UNUSUAL WAY WHAT HISTORY AND THE WORLD HAVE ALWAYS PUT BEFORE OUR EYES. OBVIOUSLY THE ELECTRIFYING MOLECULES OF THIS POTION ARE THE TATTOOISTS, ARTISTS FOR WHOM MILAN IS A PODIUM, A 'SPECIAL PLACE', WHERE THEY CAN DEMONSTRATE THEIR OWN ARTISTIC TALENTS.



Kostas, Dirty Roses, Thessaloniki, Greece



Koji Yamaguchi, Milano City Ink, Milan, Italy

MILANO

CONVENTION



Antonio Todisco, Macko Tattoo, Monopoli, Italy

For

or many it is
an achievement
and for others
it is a tradition to
be respected, as is the
case for the majority of
American tattoo artists for

whom each year Milan is a link
to the rest of Europe. The legendary
Chad Koeplinger, Kevin LeBlanc (yes,
he's the one you never see in the Old
Continent), Brad Fink and Michelle
Myles, Yutaro, Tim Kern, Franco
Vescovi... These names alone would
make for a fine list of creations.
Imagine having a video camera in
hand and zooming in on them closer
and closer, you search for them in a
crowded room, through corridors and
booths jammed with people, then
you frame their gloved hands which
are working on the skin. Noise.
Their steady gaze is fixed on a line
and there it is, another magnificent
tattoo is ready. There are Carlos
Torres' fine lines



Johnny Quintana, Ink Shop Tattoo, Arcadia, Usa



Kostas, Dirty Roses, Thessaloniki, Greece



Matteo Pasqualin, Matteo Pasqualin Tattoo, Rovigo, Italy



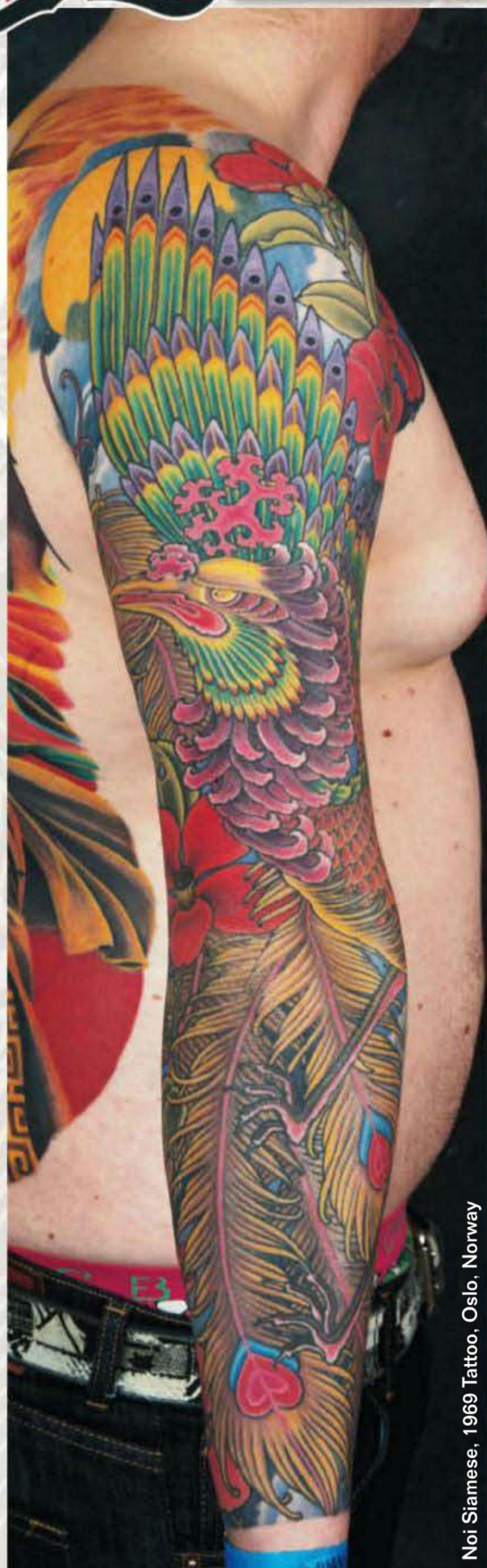
Miss Arianna, Skinwear Tattoo, Rimini, Italy



George Mavridis, Tattooligans, Thessaloniki, Greece

MILANO

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Noi Siamese, 1969 Tattoo, Oslo, Norway



Antonio Todisco, Macko Tattoo, Monopoli, Italy



Miss Arianna, Skinwear Tattoo, Rimini, Italy

and the profile of the Chicano woman produced by Carlos Rojas. We could mention José López, and wonder for the umpteenth time at how the hell he manages to create so much expression with just a single needle. We ask ourselves how Jeff Gogue manages to create such beautiful women and each one so different to the other; we are transfixed in front of Paul Massaro, in awe of the vitality on the faces of the characters he portrays; the same goes for the guys from Spider Murphy's who seem to be always one step ahead when it comes to traditional. But each stand here in Milan has something different to offer: life and trends, choice and fun. Milan is a unique and vast universe which expresses itself ironically, just like traditional, or with elegance and composure, just like Japanese. You

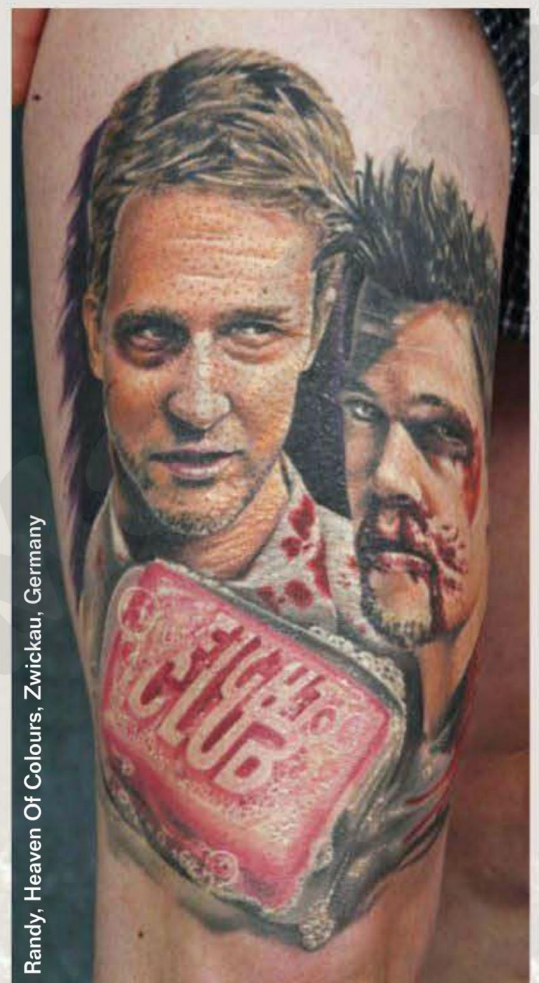
can buy beautiful objects (and here there are a lot of new goodies) from the tattooed hands of El Rana, the Lowrider t-shirts, the beautiful Japanese books on Kofuu-Senju's stand, glamorous clothes and accessories from Clarabella. And then we take a look at body painting by Dox and admire the body and its transformation. We take in the entertainment on stage where irresistible dance numbers and performances take place including the all-Italian Miss Pin up contest. We move far and wide to get a good look at all eight



José López, Lowrider, Costa Mesa, USA



Christos, Nico Tattoo, Thessaloniki, Greece



Randy, Heaven Of Colours, Zwickau, Germany

MILANO

halls at the convention, trying not to leave anything out. We look for the hall featuring the illustrations of the great Giulio Bertoletti, we mutter that there are too many people and every so often have to stop at a jam, but continue on and on patiently because we know that there's so much to see and do. There are the magnificent Italians, really talented and proud to be the masters of the

house: they have art in their hands when they create works which span from realistic to traditional Italian. And the public admires them, they watch them at work and recognise those that feature most often on the pages of the industry's international press. The public is curious, filming and photographing on their i-Phones the latest unknown and genuine underground trends that Milan is able to offer. A new traditional for the hipsters, Chicano for those with a penchant for the hip hop and



Vladi, Positive Vibration, Aradeo, Italy



Antonio Todisco, Macko Tattoo, Monopoli, Italy



Miguel Bohigues, V Tattoo, Valencia, Spain



Matteo Pasqualin, Matteo Pasqualin Tattoo, Portoviro, Italy

R 'n' B scene, whilst the coolest Indie rockers will be wearing something new after this convention; something that amongst the chaos and the race against time found this fertile place and was born. Perhaps this frenetic energy is the secret of so much creativity? No doubt the artists at the Milan Tattoo Convention have accepted the challenge of time, trying to extend it using art as their weapon. They produced the best quality on the greatest number of jobs and their aim was to please the large population of ink fans. Tension, sweat and art; anyone who wasn't happy going home with bare arms, without even the tiniest piece, must surely have been content to observe the talent of the artists as they worked so frenetically. As usual the next appointment is for February 2013, if you were left empty-handed this time, come prepared!



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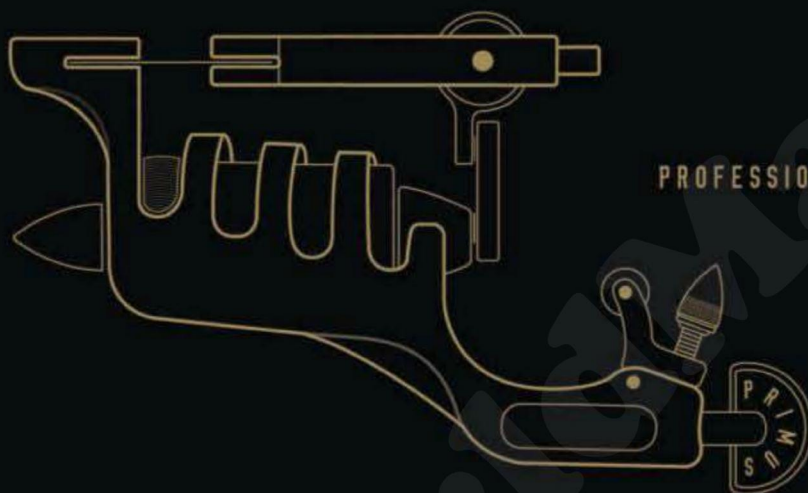
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COVER GIRL

AMELIA NIGHTMARE

TATTOOS IN WONDERLAND

Text by Simone Sacco
Photos by Christian Saint

SHE'S A BUSINESS WOMAN, A BIG PERSONALITY, A MODEL AND A HUGE FAN OF CUPCAKES. WITH A WEAKNESS FOR A CERTAIN BEATLES' SONG AND INFINITE RESPECT FOR HER FAVORITE TATTOOIST – WHITNEY LENNOX – SHE GETS HER INSPIRATION FROM ROCKS AND MINERALS. THIS IS AMELIA, BUT SHE DOESN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH TO SAY ABOUT 'NIGHTMARES'. ON THE SUBJECT OF DREAMS, HOWEVER, SHE HAS A LOT TO TALK ABOUT...

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FACEBOOK: AMELIA NIGHTMARE
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WorldMagazine



W

**HO IS AMELIA
NIGHTMARE
IN 2012?**

I always
wanted to
be a cartoon
when I grew
up... Maybe
that's why

I look the way I do. It's hard to put down everything about me in just a few sentences, but I'll do my best. I first started doing hair; cutting, coloring, styling, when I was 18. It led me into makeup, which sparked the interest in doing editorial work. Later I discovered I was my own best canvas, and got into modeling after just working with photographers doing hair and makeup. Right now I opened up my art studio, where I can do my clients' hair and make-up, but I



COVER GIRL

have also set it up for photo shoots. I build whimsical set designs; I do the art direction on photo shoots, and create unique concepts. I call it "Down the Rabbit hole" It's my wonderland that I built to nurture my creativity.

HOW DID YOU DISCOVER TATTOO ART FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE?

I've always been mesmerized by art, but I was first intrigued by tattoos when I was a kid. It started as a fascination, and then it grew into a form of self expression, memories, and experiences.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR TATTOOS TO THE PUBLIC? I FIND THEM REALLY BURSTING WITH FLAMBOYANT COLORS...

I believe my tattoos are bright and fresh because my tattoo artist pretty much rocks. Her name is Whitney Lennox. I love how unique her pieces are, and how she

focuses on color and detail.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE TATTOO ARTISTS, AMELIA?

Whitney Lennox, Aaron Funk, Megan Massacre.

IS THE LETTERING ON YOUR ARM WHICH SAYS "SEIZE THE DAY" A TRIBUTE TO THE SAUL BELLOW NOVEL WHICH WAS WRITTEN IN THE 1950'S?

Actually this quote my dad always used to tell me. Enjoy life and live for today, because tomorrow is never promised. Yet I have the hardest time truly living by this, that's why I need it tattooed on me. To constantly remind me to not take anything for granted.

AM I RIGHT IN THINKING THAT YOU HAVE A BEATLES QUOTE TATTOOED ON THE OTHER ARM, JUST UNDER A SMILING SUN?

Yes I have a Beatles quote 'Blackbird fly, into the light of the

dark black night' tattooed on my inner arm. This is me and my dad's song. It has great significance in down times that we both had to overcome.

I DARESAY YOU'RE A BIG FAN OF CUPCAKES, RIGHT?

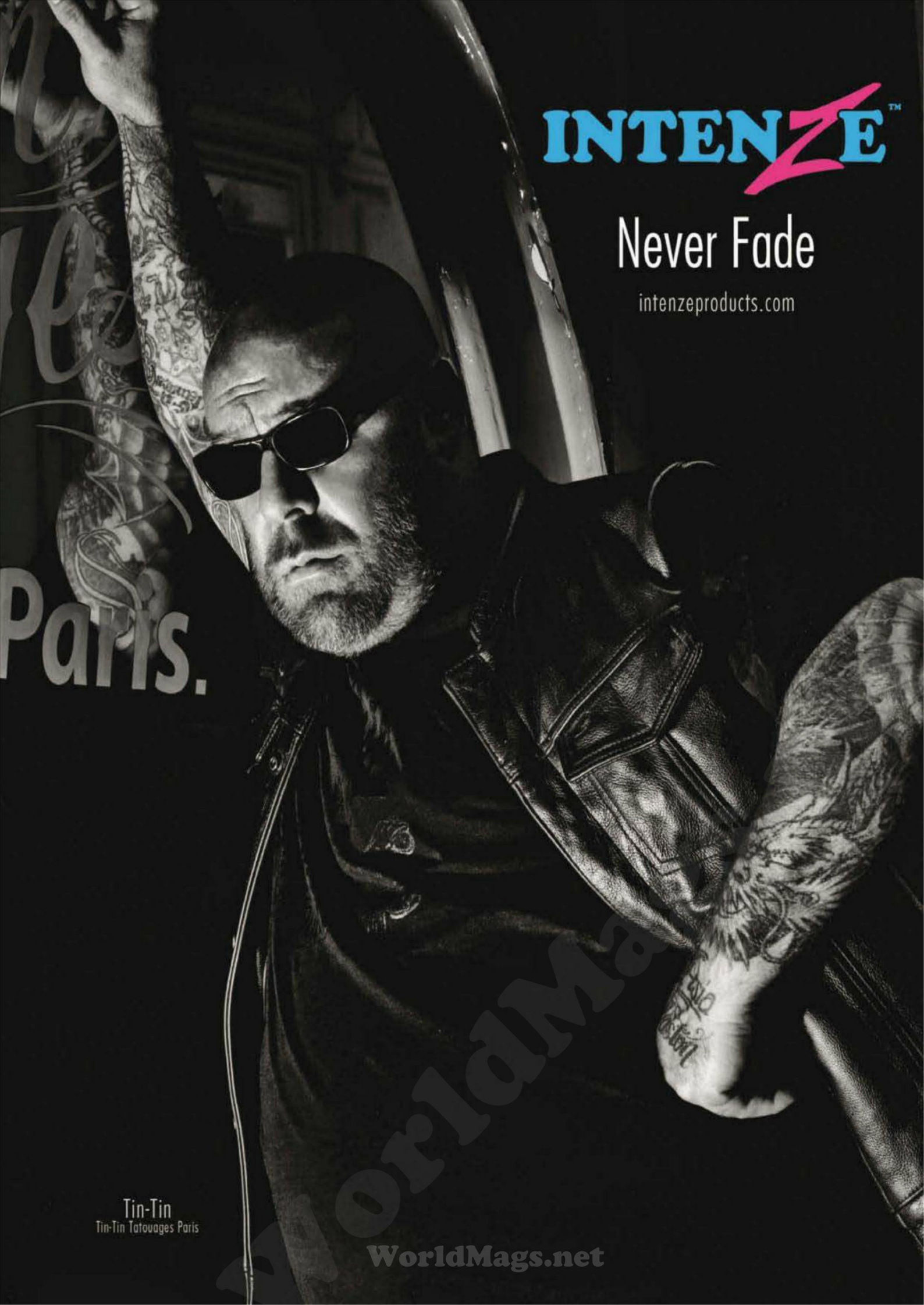
Of course I am! I got a cupcake on my foot with my best dude-man-puff-friend David Munoz. It represents our freakishly twin-like, sugar fetish/ friendship.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS FOR FUTURE TATTOOS?

Yes indeed, but I want to finish all of my incomplete pieces first. I want to start on my wonderland sleeve on my other arm!

THE INTERVIEW IS OVER, BUT IF YOU'VE GOT ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO ADD BEFORE SAYING GOODBYE...

Manifest happiness. Don't let the fear of judgment stifle self expression.

A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a leather jacket. He has extensive tattoos on his arms and is holding a long, thin object, possibly a pipe or a cigarette holder, in his right hand. The background is dark and textured.

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TATTOO ARTIST

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Marco Cerretelli

Text and photos by Marco Annunziata

The Honorable Society of tattoos

MARCO CERRETELLI WAS BORN IN 1972 AND RAISED IN FLORENCE (ITALY) WHERE HE GRADUATED FROM THE ACADEMY OF ART. HIS FIRST CONTACT WITH THE WORLD OF TATTOOING WAS DURING HIS DAYS IN MILITARY SERVICE WHERE WITH AN OLD WALKMAN, A TOOTHBRUSH AND A PEN HE BUILT HIS FIRST MACHINE TO TATTOO HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS. THEN THERE WAS A MEETING WITH MAESTRO MAURIZIO FIORINI, THE LONGEST LIVING TATTOO ARTIST IN ITALY, WITH WHOM HE WORKED FROM 1998 TO

2002. AFTER WORKING IN VARIOUS STUDIOS IN ITALY AND TAKING PART IN DIFFERENT CONVENTIONS HE DECIDED TO LEAVE FOR THE UNITED STATES. FROM 2002 TO 2003 HE WORKED IN NEW YORK THEN HE LEFT FOR LOS ANGELES. AFTER A FEW YEARS HE FOUNDED THE HONORABLE SOCIETY. I WENT TO HAVE A CHAT WITH MARCO WHO MET ME IN HIS STUDIO ON 8424 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, A VICTORIAN DRAWING ROOM WHERE IT SEEMED LIKE OSCAR WILDE COULD WALK IN AT ANY MOMENT.

MARCO YOU ARE THE UMP-TEENTH BRAIN DRAIN FROM OUR COUNTRY, WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE ITALY?

There were no reasons in particular, I'm a curious person by nature and I like trying out new things. I went to New York by chance, but living there and then in Los Angeles, I realised that the United States was the right place for someone who day after day wants to put himself to the test and build up something.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN ITALY AND WHAT HAPPENED TO MAKE YOU TAKE THAT JOURNEY?



In Italy I was working for Maurizio Fiorini in Florence and also as guest artist for Lauro Paolini in Reggio Emilia. It was through him that I met the owner of several New York studios and I was asked me to go and work for him.

DID YOU RELATE TO ANY LEGENDARY AMERICANS IN YOUR TATTOOING?

I can't really say that I related to anyone in particular since the scene in Italy at the time didn't allow for the same freedom of expression that was typical of Americans. My relationship with America was limited to great

admiration for people like Sailor Jerry, Ed Hardy, Bob Roberts, Lyle Tuttle, Mike Malone etc.

TELL ME HOW YOU STARTED OUT IN AMERICA.

In 2002 I got a job offer from a studio in Brooklyn; I'd only been working "professionally" for three years but I accepted it all the same. After about a year, for a variety of reasons including the weather (winter in New York is shocking) I decided to move to California. I arrived here in Los Angeles with hardly any money and two machines and I started out working the night shift in a studio but doing very

few tattoos. Believe me it was really hard! But slowly my name began to circulate and I started working.

WHAT DIFFERENCES HAVE YOU NOTICED BETWEEN EAST AND WEST COAST TATTOO ARTISTS? DO THE CUSTOMERS' DEMANDS DIFFER OR ARE "TRENDS" MORE PRONOUNCED?

Nowadays I think it's difficult to talk about differences since trends have the potential to reach all four corners of the globe in no time. But yes, I have to say that ten years ago I noticed a substantial difference between East and West, especially



with regards to style, which is linked to the culture inherent in the place you are working. For instance, colourful cartoon characters which were deliberately distorted with accentuated features were very East coast, whilst in California there was more emphasis on the choice of colours. As far as culture is concerned it's clear that you have to adapt to the population; an obvious example is the dominant Latin American culture in Los Angeles which clearly creates a demand for religious subjects and italic lettering which we are all familiar with.

WITH REGARDS TO YOU PERSONALLY, WE ARRIVE AT THE OPENING OF THE HONORABLE SOCIETY. HOW DID THIS START OUT?

After working hard and loyally for five years in a big studio in LA, I found myself up against someone who couldn't accept my personal success and wanted me to leave. After a year of complete isolation from everything and everybody I decided to set up something of my own where I could practice my art in full and this I did

TATTOO ARTIST



with Kyle Mclean, my dear friend and client. Thus The Honorable Society was formed in 2010, unique and totally different from the classic tattoo studio, and we've recently expanded with new workstations.

WHAT DID IT TAKE TO MAKE YOUR SHOP WORK?

In a city like Los Angeles where there's a tattoo studio on every street corner – not to mention the tattoo artists who work out of makeshift garages – the competition is high, so what can I say...Being present, motivated, not behaving like a prima donna, taking care of customers, not refusing anyone but giving advice and guidance to make the right decision and doing your best...always.

HOW, IN YOUR OPINION, DID YOU GAIN RECOGNITION AS A TATTOO ARTIST?

I've always loved art in all its forms, tattooing brought me closer to its figurative representation. Throughout my career I've tattooed pretty much everything so I haven't developed so much my own style but rather a philosophy: I try to please my

Marco Gerrotelli

customers and give good advice. I have worked and still do work with many great tattoo artists and even the small exchanges of ideas with them have contributed to my growth as an artist.

HOW DID YOUR STYLE EVOLVE DURING THIS GROWTH?

After all these years I think I have understood that the most important thing, apart from fine lines and bright colours, is to put your heart and soul into even the simplest of designs to make it unique.

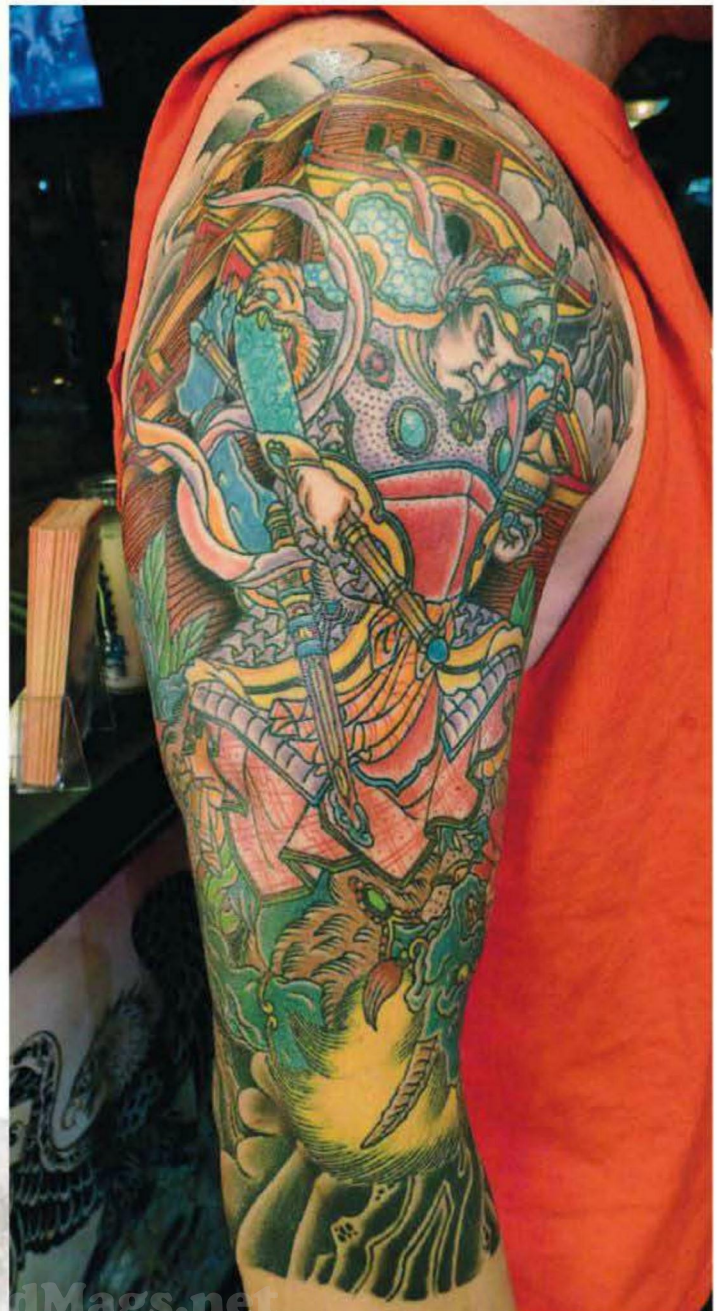
DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVOURITE SUBJECTS?

I'd be happy doing one of my "girlies" but my clients are somewhat varied

so the subjects and themes that are requested are quite diverse. My philosophy is to produce an interesting product when asked, something aesthetically beautiful that conveys a certain something to whoever sees it and more importantly to whoever wears it.

RIGHT NOW WHAT ARE YOU FOCUSING ON OR EXPERIMENTING WITH ARTISTICALLY?

I want to remain true to myself without falling into the trap of things that are too trendy, that's not for me. I'd rather perfect my style by following





the rules which I consider to be appropriate... I'm sorry but that means no scratched out tones!!!

BEING A FAMOUS TATTOO ARTIST IN LOS ANGELES MEANS THAT YOU GET THE CHANCE TO TATTOO FAMOUS PEOPLE... LIKE SYLVESTER STALLONE FOR EXAMPLE?

I thought it was a joke when I received a phone call from his manager but it was true! For people of my generation Stallone is an icon, I'm so pleased to have worked with him.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE FILM THE EXPENDABLES?

Still incredulous I went to see him! We talked a little, he told me he'd

heard of me and that he liked how I worked, then he asked me to fix a few old tattoos and do some new ones. We met several times and during these meetings he talked about the film he was working on, The Expendables, and he asked if I could work on a logo to use in the film...Over the next few days I worked on the idea of a skull with two sticks of dynamite which I sent to him and he approved it! *(He proudly shows me the target used in the scenes where the protagonists threw knives, Ed.)*

YOU'VE BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES FOR YEARS NOW, WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT ITALY?

I miss not being a part of the renaissance of the tattoo scene

in Italy; being a part of that new movement and establishing myself amongst young (and old) talent which makes me proud to be Italian.

WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE ITALIAN RESTAURANT IN LOS ANGELES?

My favourite Italian restaurant is without doubt the Locanda Veneta on Third Street where they make Gorgonzola and truffle dumplings which are out of this world. For pizza I go to Trattoria Amici in Glendale.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE CONVENTIONS IN AMERICA?

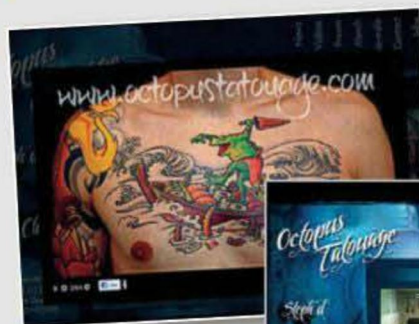
I don't do conventions in the States any more...But for years I went to Long Beach, San José and Sacramento.

BEFORE WE SAY GOODBYE, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO VISIT ITALY IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Not in the near future, but should I decide to go I'll let friends and clients know through Facebook.

WWW.TATTOOBYPSTEPH.COM OCTOPUS BLUE WORLD

Steph D and his wife Claire opened a new tattoo shop on the 3rd February in Pontoise, north of Paris: *Octopus Tatouage* is on line and it's a great site which puts together everything you need to know about them. Navigation has been made as simple as possible, on the background blue marine creatures wink at you and on the home page – which gives a brief presentation of the studio and sends you to the Facebook page – we can explore the world of Steph and Claire. From the links on the left you can access the biographies and photos of all their works, carried out using various styles with soft, ironic and unmistakable lines. Find out the latest news, videos, press articles and merchandising as well as detailed information, and visit their favourite links.



HTTP://CRAFTSMANTATTOOS.COM FOLLOW THE RED DRAGON

Craftsmantattoos is the Canadian studio which belongs to Clint Danroth where he works with Rob Hope, Dave Allen, Dan Thompson and Kaija Heitland. This artist's website, which mixes oriental style with a contemporary flavour, is simple and straightforward. After a brief but suggestive animation where a fiery dragon introduces us to the contents, black and white dominate. The latest news can be found on the home page, in the "artists" section each tattoo artist proposes a selection of his works and in the merchandise section you can buy prints directly online. A gallery, press reviews and a "travel info" section keep you up to date on Clint's movements.



WWW.DIRTYROSES.GR THE ROSES FROM GREECE

The website of Kostas and Gotza's Greek *Dirty Roses* studio is really well done. It has a straightforward presentation of the two tattoo artists. From the beautiful homepage, which has a tattoo machine in the foreground, you can imagine the spirit of the studio, which puts its love for tattoo art as its first priority. There is brief but efficient news and contact information together with a small but valuable section dedicated to the prizes they have won at conventions. The gallery is extremely rich: here you can browse the numerous works from Kostas and Gotza and admire their eclectic and theatrical style which moves from reinvented Japanese to the giddy heights of realistic. There are amusing photographs in the "Dirty Times" section, which present the two guys in unusual dress...Go check it out!



WWW.SHAMROCKTATTOO.COM THE TREFOIL OF TATTOO

Clicking on a green shamrock surrounded by a band bearing the word "tattoo", on a pitch-black background it seems we go back in time to get to know the great Mark Mahoney: a living legend, considered to be one of the best artists in black and grey. His shop is on none other than Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, and the shamrock is its symbol. There are lots of artists who collaborate with him: Freddy Negrete, Colin LaRocque, Danny Romo, Andrew "The Kid" Farnsley, Isaiah Negrete, East The Asian Typhoon, Wade, Goudie Mitz, Rick Walters and Ben Corn. If you want to find out more, click on their names. The Liberty style graphics are elegant and fascinating, just like the personality of this great tattoo artist.



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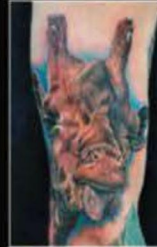
Animal Ink

Exploring the World's Wildlife Through Tattoo Art

THIS WONDERFUL BOOK, THE BRAINCHILD OF MIKE DEVRIES, INVITES READERS TO EXPLORE THE ANIMAL WORLD THROUGH TATTOO ART: A NEW AND FUN WAY TO REDISCOVER THE WILD AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM. IT'S A FABULOUS BOOK FOR DRAWING UPON NEW IDEAS AND INSPIRATION. THIS EDITION IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY MEMENTO PUBLISHING AND IS A REAL FEAST FOR THE EYES, OVERFLOWING WITH CREATIVE ENERGY FROM SOME OF THE WORLD'S BEST TATTOOISTS.

It's no mystery that the first representations of animals date back to prehistoric times as they were already decorating the walls of the caves of primitive man. As time passed these images were enhanced with details and new meanings. It can certainly be said that, apart from being a part of the ecosystem and loyal companions, animals have always been an

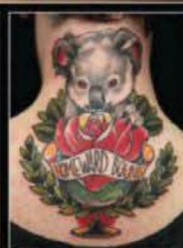
18 Mike DeVries

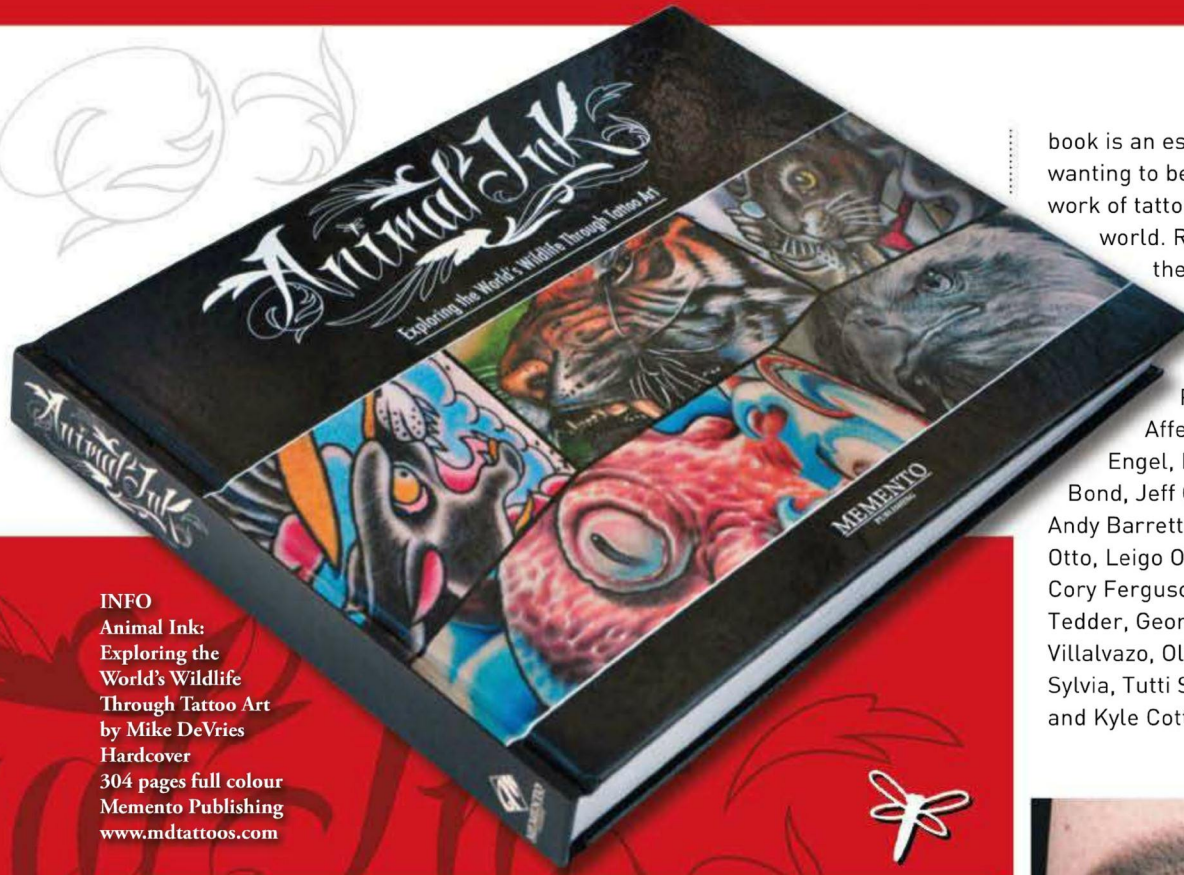


The fantastic tattoo known as "Ralph the Rubber Fly" that resides on tattoo artist Katelyn Crane's leg, was inked by her friend and fellow artist, Mike DeVries. Her Ralph piece is not only beautifully executed, but has a lot of meaning to her each time she sees it. Katelyn explains, "I have always had a special place in my heart for bugs. Insects, to me, always symbolized appreciating the small things in life. Thomas Shahan is a macro photographer that has the ability to accolade how amazing they look when you take the time to look up close instead of shooting them away. I thought it was the best way to portray this Rubber Fly, and I wanted it forever." Indeed, Ralph the Rubber Fly is permanently affixed to her skin and her heart, so that each time she views it, she remembers that beautiful lesson - to appreciate the little things in life that matter the most.



Uncle Allan 27





INFO
Animal Ink:
Exploring the
World's Wildlife
Through Tattoo Art
by Mike DeVries
Hardcover
304 pages full colour
Memento Publishing
www.mdtattoos.com

book is an essential tool for anyone wanting to be kept up to date on the work of tattoo artists around the world. Refined artists present their work including: Bob Tyrrell, Mike DeVries, Uncle Allan, Juan Salgado, Alex De Pase, Jess Yen, Andrea Afferni, Carlos Rojas, Andy Engel, Nick Baxter, Brandon Bond, Jeff Croci, Jee Sayalero, Andy Barrett, Jo Harrison, Oddyboy, Otto, Leigo Oldcorn, Sean Herman, Cory Ferguson, Tony Mancina, Dave Tedder, George Bardadim, Vince Villalvazo, Oleg Turyanskiy, Jim Sylvia, Tutti Serra, Matteo Cascetti and Kyle Cotterman.

74 Nick Baxter



important source of inspiration for artists throughout the ages, and today they are also an important and recurring theme in tattoo art. Mike DeVries has assembled a collection of work from over 160 talented tattoo artists worldwide, featuring in 304 full-colour pages. It is a valuable compendium of art that includes 62 stories of specific animals, with details, explanations, meanings and suggestions from the people who had the tattoos and the tattoo artists themselves. There are many styles represented in these pages and whilst browsing the

readers can immerse themselves in a world of fins and fur: there are classic images of Japanese carp, traditional-style black panthers and well-known cartoon characters as well as imaginative aquatic universes inhabited by mysterious creatures. There are amazing realistic portraits revealing minute details of the plumage of golden eagles or the proud gaze of the inhabitants of the jungle. It's a great book for both fans of tattooing as well as anyone with an interest in zoology and is a great source of inspiration and reference material. And finally, the

AGENDA

Portsmouth

14/15 April 2012

Second appointment with the Tattoo Extravaganza which takes place in Portsmouth Pyramids Centre (UK).
www.tattooextravaganza.co.uk

Belfort

14/15 April

Seventeenth international tattooing convention in Belfort (France).
www.belfort-tattoo-convention.com

Vancouver

15/16/17 April 2012

The return of the West Coast Tattoo Show takes place in Vancouver (Canada) at the Boulevard Casino Coquitlam.
www.westcoasttattooshow.com

Copenhagen

4/5/6 May 2012

Second appointment at the Copenhagen Ink Festival (Denmark)
www.inkfest.dk

Liverpool

4/5/6 May 2012

New appointment with the Liverpool (UK) convention.
www.tattooconvention.co.uk

Rome

4/5/6 May 2012

Thirteenth edition of the Rome International Tattoo Expo.
www.tattooexporoma.com

Athens

11/12/13 May 2012

6th appointment with the Athens Tattoo Convention (Greece).
www.athenstattooconvention.gr

Conthey

21/22 May 2012

17th edition of the Alchemy Tattoo Expo which takes place at Halle Polyvalente in Conthey (Switzerland).
www.alchemy-tattoo-expo.ch

New York

18/19/20 May 2012

Fifteenth edition of the long-awaited New York tattoo convention.
www.nyctattooconvention.com

Amsterdam

1/2/3 June 2012

8th appointment with the Amsterdam

Tattoo Convention (Holland) which takes place at RAI Centre.
www.tattooexpo.eu

Long Beach

8/9/10 June 2012

Ninth appointment on the Queen Mary for the Ink -N-Iron Tattoo Festival 2012.
<http://ink-n-iron.com>

Genk

23/24 June 2012

Appointment with the first Belgium's First International Summer Tattoo Convention to be held in Genk (Belgium).
www.summerinkfest.be

Naples

29/30 June

9° edition of the Tattoo Expo in Naples (Italy).
www.tattooexponapoli.it

Bodensee

6/7/8 July 2012

1st International Tattoo Convention at Bodensee (Germany).
www.tattooconventionbodensee.de

Poysdorf

3/4/5 August 2012

5th Starfire Tattoo Weekend which takes place at Poysdorf (Austria).
<http://starfiretattoo.com>
starfire-tattoo@hotmail.de

Cagliari

24/25/26 August 2012

Fifth edition of the Cagliari Tattoo Convention which will be held at the Congress Centre Hotel Setar in Quartu S.Elena, in Sardinia (Italy).
www.tattooconventioncagliari.it

Stockholm

24/25/26 August 2012

Appointment with the 16th Stockholm Ink Bash (Sweden).
www.stockholminkbash.com

Boston

31 August, 1/2/3 September 2012

Four days of tattooing at the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel in Boston (USA).
<http://bostontattooconvention.com>

Reutlingen

31 August, 1/2 September 2012

Seventh year for the l'International

Tattoo Convention in Reutlingen (Germany).

www.tattooconvention-reutlingen.de

Assen

14/15/16 September 2012

7th International Assen Tattoo Convention which will take place at De Bonte Wever in Assen (Holland).
www.tattooexpo.eu

London

28/29/30 September 2012

New edition of the "International London Tattoo Convention. The One and Only!" which as usual takes place at Tobacco Dock, East London
www.thelondontattooconvention.com

Barcelona

5/6/7 October 2012

Fifteenth appointment with Spanish tattooing at the Barcelona International Tattoo Expo (Spain).
www.barcelonatattooconvention.com
convenciones@pro-arts.com

St. Gallen

6/7 October 2012

12th edition of the Swiss convention which is held at the Fürstenlandsaal Gossau.
www.tattoo-convention-sg.ch

Brussels

12/13/14 October 2012

New appointment with the International Brussels Tattoo Convention.
www.brusselstattooconvention.be
info@brusselstattooconvention.be

Evian

19/20/21 October 2012

The return of the Evian Tattoo Show (France).
www.eviantattoo.com

New Jersey

12/13/14 October 2012

Appointment at the 'Inked Out' NJ, which takes place at Meadowlands, NJ (USA).
inkedoutnj.com

Las Vegas

26/27/28 October 2012

The return of The Biggest Tattoo Show on Earth by Mario Barth, which as usual takes place in Las Vegas (USA).
lasvegastattooshow.com

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WWW.THELONDONTATTOOCONVENTION.COM

THE ONE & ONLY

INTERNATIONAL

8TH

ADAM
HAYS
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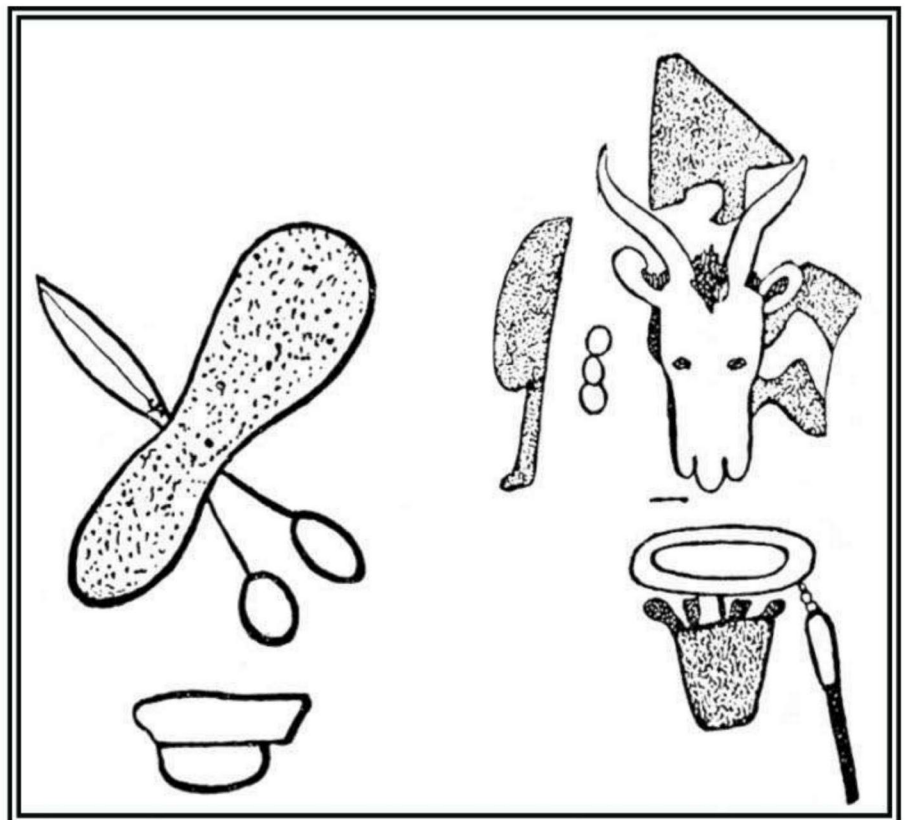
TATTOOING IN ITALY AND EUROPE AFTER THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

THE MARK OF CAIN, BRAND, MARK, DEVOTION.

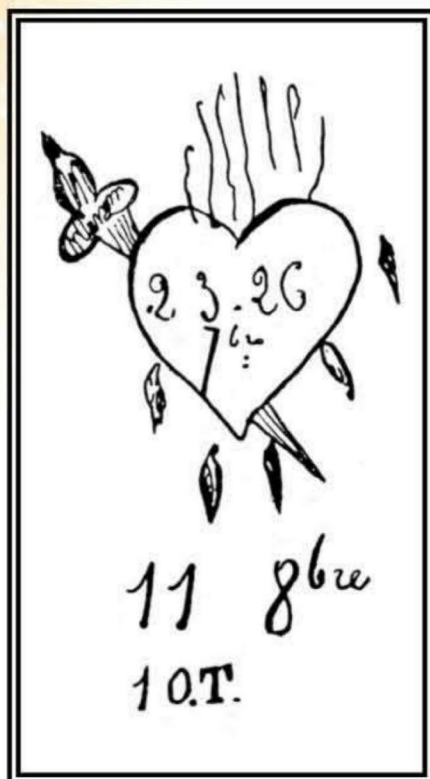
BY LUISA GNECCHI RUSCONE

At the end of the Roman Empire tattooing was no longer widespread and was practiced in a few isolated communities, in private houses and purely for religious purposes. However this type of tattooing must have involved a very large number of people given that Pope Hadrian in 787AD (at the Concilium Calchuthense held in England) felt compelled to issue a papal bull with the aim of prohibiting the practice of tattooing (and also circumcision).

In spite of being isolated and forbidden, tattoos appeared here and there throughout the Middle Ages but since it was referred to by different names which differed from Latin terminology, it was often difficult to identify. Names used when referring to tattooing in this period were: *brand, mark, sign, devotion* and more widespread: *The Mark of Cain*. In medieval culture tattooing, although banned yet tolerated by the pilgrims, only had very negative connotations. The canonical law at the time divided men into three hierarchical classes: at the top were those who prayed, underneath there were those who fought, and then there were those who worked the land. At the very bottom, the outcasts of 'respectable society' were those who carried out shameful activities. The activities which involved contact with blood were considered to be the worst of all

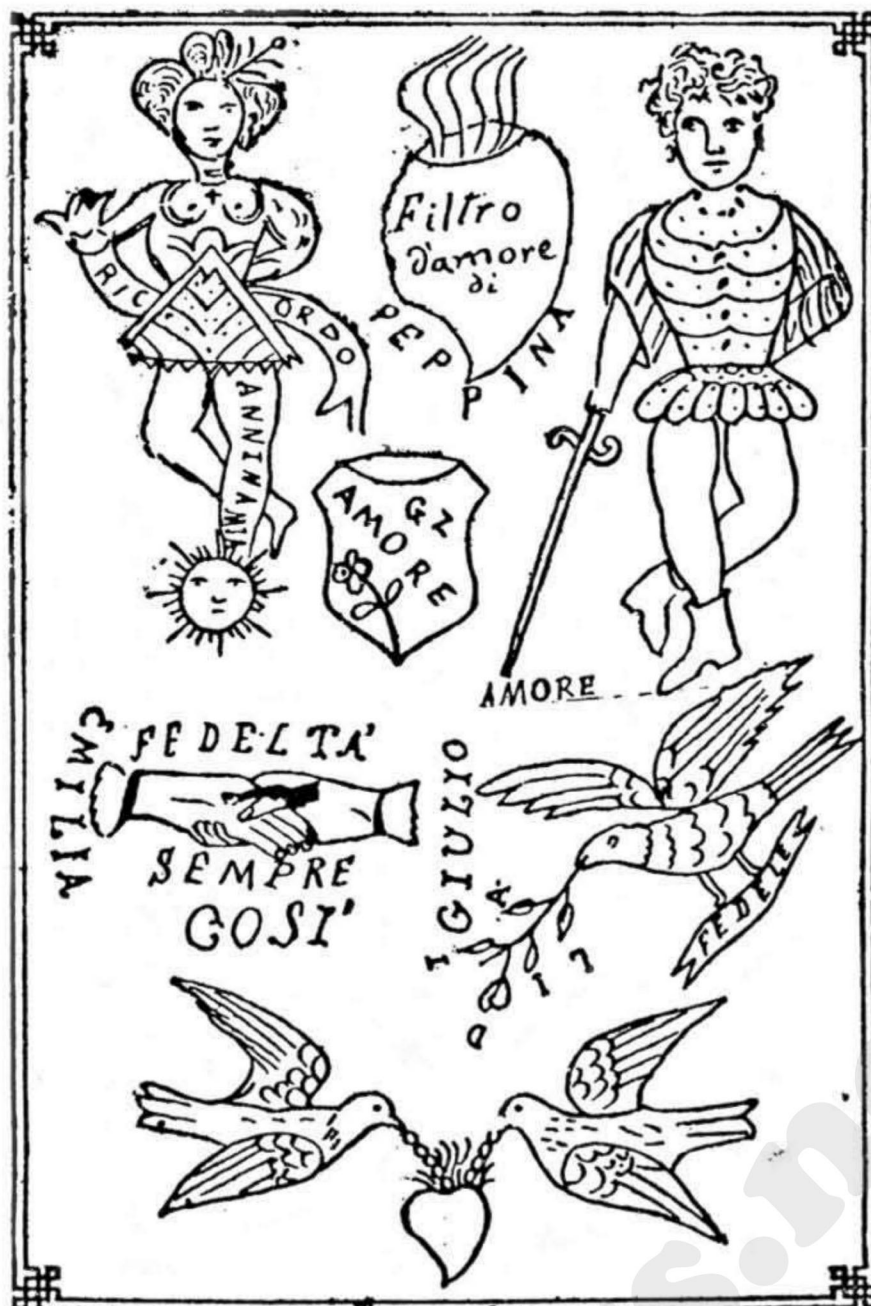


Tailor's emblem and butcher's emblem

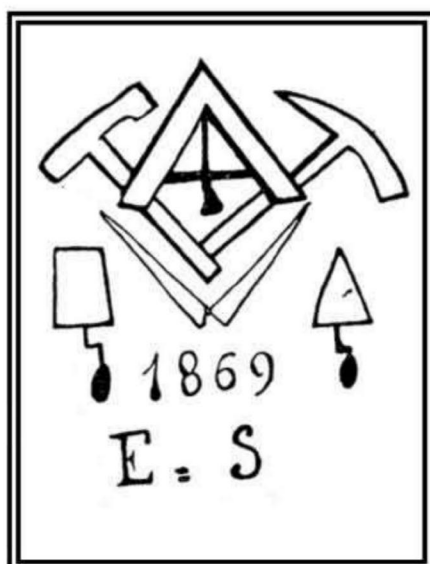


Lovers' tattoo

(one of the greatest taboos in the West in medieval times): surgeon, butcher...and executioner who was the most unacceptable of all. These people were hired outside of the town and were referred to as "scalabrino", a word with devilish connotations. Soldiers on the other hand were not part of this infamous category as they were considered to be protectors of Christianity. Certain other trades which involved getting dirty were also considered



Tattoos of love



Builder's emblem

corrupt such as cleaners and dyers; trades which were linked to entertainment such as jesters, actors...as well as nomadic occupations in general. Towards the tenth and eleventh century many categories of artisans formed highly selective corporations and associations in order to clear themselves from prejudice and to protect themselves. Each body of artisans chose a patron saint and a symbol of recognition that would render them "noble". United in a group they were stronger in their battle against isolation and contempt from society and also in their claim

for professional dignity and different social recognition. Their link with their own corporation and with the symbol that represented it became very strong when the bodies of artisans, businessmen and salaried workers had to fight to gain a place and power in the rigid and closed hierarchy of feudal society. The tattoo of the symbol of their own particular profession became the very symbol of the artisans' fight for social liberation and its practice spread rapidly throughout the whole of Europe where it survived until a few decades ago. The tattoo epitomized the most important values in the

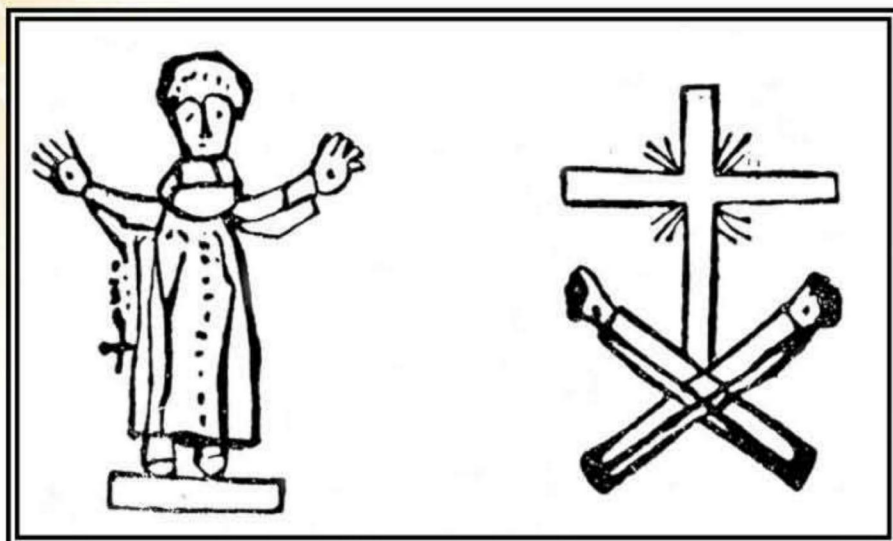


Corporations' tattoos

struggles of the new emerging middle classes. It expressed the strong bond with membership of a corporation with the tattoo as its symbol; it also conveyed the right for dignity in their work through a

provocative gesture – the tattoo – which was an official declaration of refusal of the blood taboo, with Cane as protector of the whole group. Cane, who was marked by God when he was driven from the Garden

of Eden was sent to live and work amongst men; a sign was marked on his forehead so that he would be recognized and killed. Artisans at that time called their tattoo "the mark of Cane" the sign



Religious tattoos representing St. Francis with the stigmata and the cross of St. Francis

of the dregs of society who wanted their right to dignity. It was probably the executioners, who held the worst position in society, who were the first tattooists; the same people that had marked the condemned possessed the necessary tools and technical knowledge to do so.

The choice of Cane as their protector is closely linked to its symbolic value; on the one hand Cane is commonly considered to be the first murderer, the criminal, the rebel, the first person responsible for violence and barbarity. On the other hand, surprisingly, the Bible states that Cane (Gen.4:17) is the founder of the city, of civilization, the creator of law and order. After the assassination of his brother Abel, God showed him the horror of what he had done and on seeing the terror on Cane's face ("Anyone who finds me will kill me")

proclaimed: "Anyone who kills Cane will suffer vengeance seven times over!" Then "the Lord gave Cane a sign so that anyone meeting him would not kill him". It is a deep and mysterious passage from which we understand the following elements: God's ban on killing Cane came about because it was the assassin himself who was the founder of civilization, of a city (Enoch, named after his son) which rose up out of the desert and which, together with law and ritual, saw technology flourish with Tubal-cain and art flourished with Jabal. (Rome was born out of an act of fratricide).

Who knows how many other forms of tattooing were practiced during the Middle Ages, of which there are no records. It was without doubt used as a sign of belonging to a group, whether criminal, political

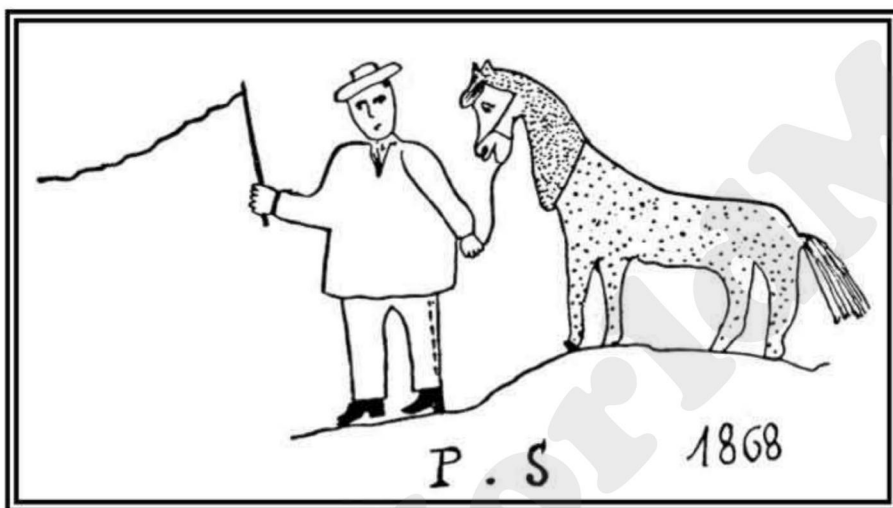
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Ancient Latin formulas for fighting fever

or religious; people undoubtedly tattooed the name of their loved ones as well as displaying tattoos demonstrating recognition of illegitimate children or heirs to thrones or assets. In Portugal people had tattoos bearing magic formulas to cure fever and infection; in Siena, where contrades continue to exist and the city is divided up into different districts, there is the ancient tradition of tattooing the symbol of one's own contrade. During the Middle Ages tattooing was held in very bad regard and was practiced mainly as a form of punishment, as a mark of infamy, yet even though it was isolated and forbidden, it has continued to represent more positive forms of expression.

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Horseman's emblem

21st INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTION BERLIN

CONVENTION

DECEMBER
2nd
3rd
4th
2011

Text by Stefania Perosin - Photos by Marcus Ewers



Chris, farbShock, Ebersbach, Germany



Chris, Farbhock, Ebersbach, Germany



Chris, Farbhock, Ebersbach, Germany



Flo, Vicious Circle, Weiler, Germany



BERLIN IS A CITY WHICH, FOR SOME YEARS NOW, HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF ORIGINALITY. IT IS THE FAVOURITE DESTINATION FOR THE MAJORITY OF CREATIVE YOUNG EUROPEANS AND THE REASONS BECAME CLEAR WHILST PARTICIPATING AT THE LONG-AWAITED TATTOO CONVENTION WHICH TOOK PLACE LAST DECEMBER. NOT ONLY IS THE URBAN SCENERY EVOCATIVE AND RICH AND FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS, WHERE PAST AND PRESENT INTERTWINE AND CONNECT – BUT THE PUBLIC AT THIS CONVENTION SHOWED ITSELF TO BE VARIED AND COLOURFUL. THE WORKS THAT WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADMIRE REFLECT THE TRUE ESSENCE OF A GREAT METROPOLIS: FREE, ECCENTRIC AND CONTINUALLY EVOLVING.

The twenty-first International Tattoo Convention in Berlin was held at the Arena, a huge red-brick building complex, displaying scruffy and austere charm – overlooking the Spree – which during the 90's became home to a theatre, a club and café, and was also one of the most important venues for concerts, exhibitions and parties in the city. The entrance to the exhibition is situated right next to the entrance of a rambling flea market which is jam-packed with bric-a-brac accompanied

by the unmistakable odour of mildew. Observing the people gathered outside, you had a pretty good idea of what might be on offer inside. In complete contrast to the muddled crowd outside on the pavements, the area is organised and streamlined: the stands, the stage and the eating areas are all ideally positioned and the well-structured space makes for a smooth visit. The atmosphere heats up as the day progresses: the air is thick with the smell of disinfectant and ink mixed with smoke and food; music and shows entertain an attentive and game audience. Tattoo art triumphs. And the Berlin convention displays a particular style of tattooing which is marked in part by the unusual and extraordinary public, and also by the extremely talented tattoo artists who never miss this excellent

Adriaan Machete, Berlin, Germany



21st INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTION BERLIN

German rendezvous. The public belongs to no particular age-group or category yet each person participates in the event in their own individual way. There are the professionals in the industry who are scouring the place to make purchases and pass the time chatting to suppliers; there are onlookers who wander from stand to stand in search of inspiration and who consult the tattooists about the latest designs [we saw an enormous quantity of lettering and amazing realistic being carried out, as well as the endless passion for tribal motifs]; there are the numerous, ultra-tattooed fans who seem hypnotised by the skill of the talented international artists present. They sought them out, complimented them and then finally booked them to do the most amazing and intricate jobs in horror, fantasy and realistic styles inspired by cinema and music. Amongst



Dimitry Samhin, Ukraine



Tom, Art of Paint, Oranienburg, Germany
Ivan, Oldschool, Berlin, Germany



21st INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTION BERLIN

these featured many big German studios such as Anabi Tattoo, All Style Tattoo from Berlin, Für Immer, Frank Weber's B52, Berit the outstanding organiser, the Buena Vista Tattoo Club with their original trademark style: Realistic Trash Polka came to life on the skin of many people with their artistic splashes of black and red bordering on graffiti, geometric and action painting. Once again Milosh and Jack Ribeiro, Liorcifer and Benjamin Moss, the talented Zsolt Sarkozi and Boris showed themselves to be masters of realistic and horror with their skilful and horror-inspired contortions of reality. There was a really interesting Japanese cuff from Takami of Knockover. A mix of realistic and fantasy with a touch of traditional surely make black his most successful image ever. The contest results were sometimes unexpected and were a good measure of the pulse of such an eclectic convention, which is always open to new ideas: the winner of the best realistic tattoo, for instance, was Dimitriy Samohin from the Ukraine, whilst the Italian, Tiziano Ripanti took first prize in the Crazy



Piotr, D3X5, Poland

Andreas Pacheco, Brutal Tattoo Arts, Chile



Banas, Coffein Tattoo, Warsaw, Poland



Miss Nico, All Style Tattoo, Berlin, Germany



Tattoo category with his tribute to the wonderful film director Tim Burton. The winner of the best work of the day on Friday was Yliana Paoline from One More Tattoo (Luxembourg). Miguel from V-Tattoo deserves a mention as does George Mavridis from Greece, both of whom are gaining a lot of recognition lately on the European scene. Tattoos are a way of life in Berlin, not a fashion: everyone here came with the intention of finding the most suitable artist to interpret their own personality.

In this city, where originality dominates, tattooing deserves the same respect as any other art form as an expression of creativity. In this day and age this kind of attitude is not common but it's a wonderful exception to the rule. The Berlin convention is therefore a tribute to freedom of expression, to creativity and frivolity. And for this reason, if you want to discover more of the many unseen aspects of tattoo art, we suggest you organise yourselves for the 2013 edition.



The 8th International
**AMSTERDAM
TATTOO
CONVENTION
2012**

PHOTO EXHIBITION
by Patricia Steur

TATTOO WALL ART

Graffiti
Exhibition

June 1-2-3

RAI Convention Center



WWW.TATTOOEXPO.EU

VINCE

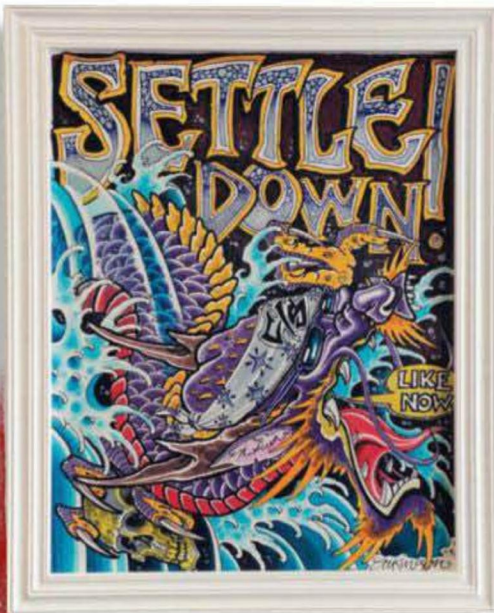
EVENTS

★ KOOLSVILLE ARTIST'S CHOICE ★

PHOTOS BY RICHARD TODD

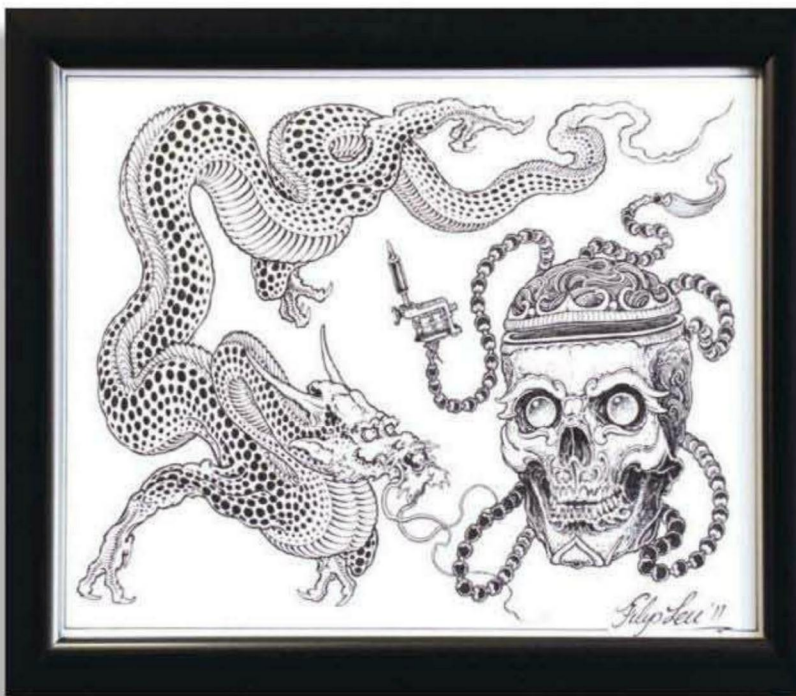
FAMOUS FOR HAVING REINVENTED BLACK AND GREY AND ALSO FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY REALISTIC PORTRAITS, EXECUTED WITH AMAZING SKILL WITH A SINGLE NEEDLE, JACK RUDY CAN WITHOUT DOUBT BE CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE BEST TATTOO ARTISTS IN THE WORLD. *KOOLSVILLE*, HIS GALLERY IN ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT MEETING PLACE SINCE ITS INCEPTION; A CROSSROADS OF EXPERIENCES NOT TO MENTION A HUGE INTERIOR

WHERE TATTOOING MELTS AND MERGES WITH MANY OTHER DISCIPLINES. BY HIS SIDE, IS HIS WIFE CARRIE: AN IRREPLACEABLE PARTNER IN LIFE AND WORK. FROM THE 3RD DECEMBER 2011 UNTIL THE 3RD JANUARY 2012 ANOTHER INTERESTING EXHIBITION WAS STAGED: *ARTIST'S CHOICE*, WHICH INCLUDED BIG NAMES SUCH AS THE PIZZ, VON FRANCO, SARAH RAY, SQUINDO, KEITH WEESNER, FILIP LEU AND MANY MORE.

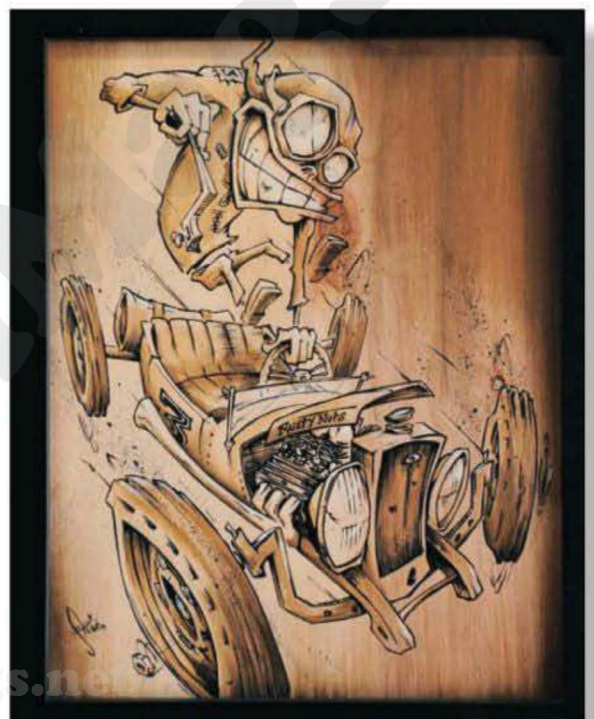
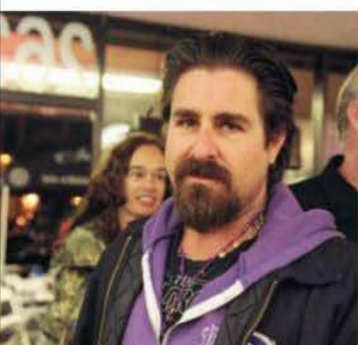


Jack and Carrie's gallery has been in existence for six years and it has seen many exhibitions, with artists from the world of tattooing and elsewhere: when interviewed by Richard Todd, Jack said, in fact that he "loves to involve artists who are outside of the tattoo scene". This latest show is a shining example.





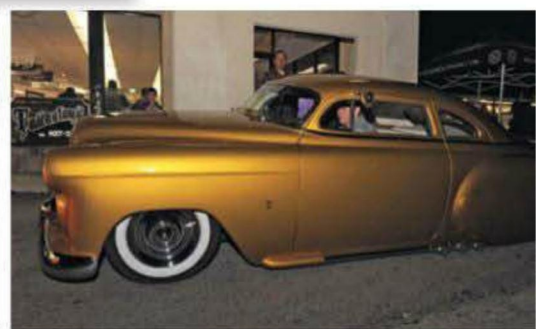
On the opening night the gallery was crowded with people, and it was a great opportunity to meet up. According to Jack it was a huge success, above all because it has spurred him on and charged him up to organise the next event: "There was a full house... We had a lot of fun and I'm already preparing a new list of artists for next year!" Jack has always loved organising events of this kind, at least one or two per year, but he reveals that he'd like to do more... "The fact is the gallery isn't our full-time job! Unfortunately we don't spend our time thinking about the next show.

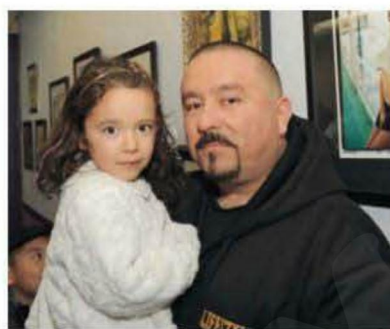


★ KOOLSVILLE ARTIST'S CHOICE ★



We have the retail, piercings, and Carrie is responsible for skin and facial care. We also produce t-shirts at Koolsville: we have a large range of shirts made here in the store, with my work and that of other artists". Since the gallery opened there have been personal exhibitions of sculpture, tattoo art and traditional art. The idea for this retrospective, which was a collection of the artists' favourite works, came about quite naturally. Carrie was instrumental in the organisation of the event and there is much gratitude in Jack's words: "Carrie has worked so hard on getting this latest show together". Richard Todd asks him if there are any items which he liked in particular: "There are so many pieces that it's impossible to name just a few", he replies, but then he reveals something about his preferences: "First off Jack's piece *The Old Rear Admiral*, because it's a kind of family portrait", he laughs and then continues to tell us more about Artist's Choice "... In the exhibition there was the bizarre piece from Keith Weesner: he's an on the road tattooist but I've discovered that he does a lot of really interesting things that I'd never heard of before... I didn't expect to receive an oil painting from him! I also liked all the other oil paintings I received from tattooists like Aaron Bell and Paul Booth. And it was a pleasure to see Bob and Charlie Roberts together, grandfather and grandson, and to speak to them.





There was also Good Time Charlie Cartwright and his nephew Alex, with his first black and grey piece. There was Amber Carr who works in graphite. But let's not forget the other women: firstly there was Titine Leu, a real expert in her style. Bill and Juni did a piece and even Ed Hardy gave us a painting; one of his really unique ones. There was work by Johnny Reyes, Robert Atkinson and Mr Lucky who did a Madonna in his own unmistakable style, with luminous and compact colours... and many, many more. A really unusual and interesting project! Let's take a look at the photos and next year we'll find out what other surprises Jack and Carrie's creative minds have in store for us.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
RICHARD TODD FOR THE
INTERVIEW**

TATTOO ARTIST



GEORGE MAVRIDIS 'CHOOSE LIFE!'

BY STEFANIA PEROSIN

**GEORGE MAVRIDIS
TATTOOLIGANS**

Georgiou Theohari Str. 5-7
Thessaloniki-Greece
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studio@tattooligans.com
tattooligans@hotmail.com

FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW GEORGE MAVRIDIS HAS BEEN SCOOPING UP AWARDS AT CONVENTIONS ALL AROUND THE WORLD AND HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ART SCENE IN THE WONDERFUL COUNTRY THAT IS GREECE. YOU COULD SAY THAT THIS 33 YEAR-OLD HAS ALREADY BECOME AN IMPORTANT REFERENCE POINT FOR HIS PARTICULAR STYLE, REALISTIC AND HORROR, WHICH HE HAS REINVENTED WITH UNRELENTING CREATIVE FORCE. HOWEVER, HE HAS HIS FEET FIRMLY ON THE GROUND. HE HAS CHOSEN TO STAY AND WORK IN THESSALONIKI AND NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM; NAMELY THE PEOPLE WHO SURROUND HIM.



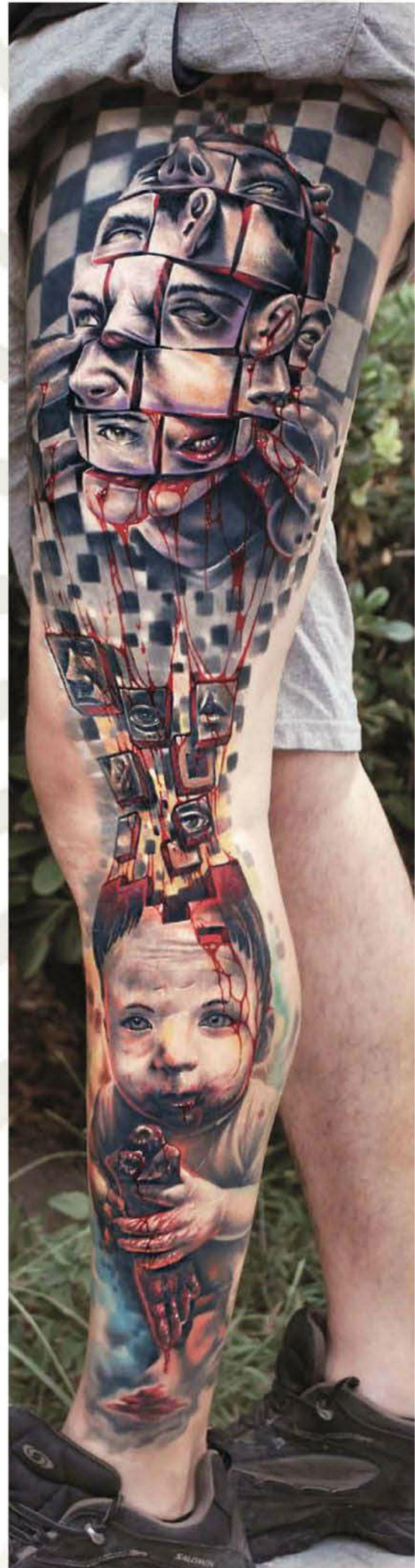
YOU HAVE A BACKGROUND IN GRAFFITI, AND YOU SAY THAT THIS HAS INFLUENCED YOUR ARTISTIC STYLE. COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THIS GEORGE?

Yes that's right, I started doing graffiti when I

was 14 years old, on the road, and I carried on doing it for the next seven years. I stopped when I took up tattooing professionally. Every so often I take it up again, but purely for fun. Starting out with graffiti has certainly helped me, especially due to the fact that you learn to draw quickly and in difficult situations, on the road. But I have to say that the technical part is completely different: with graffiti, for example you can add

any colour you want, but with tattooing you have to follow other rules.

THEN YOUR ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT TOOK YOU TO INTERNATIONAL HEIGHTS WITH YOUR INTERPRETATION OF REALISTIC AND HORROR. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT AND HOW DO YOU PERSONALISE THESE TWO STYLES?



I'm convinced that it's not you that chooses a style but it's the style that chooses you. And my style chose me when I was 18 years old. When I first started out though, I was doing everything: Maori, tribal, Japanese, traditional. I did whatever anyone asked! I come from a poor family and I needed to earn money. But I tried to do my best...You know, I've always believed that when you work with someone you must always do your best for them. After a few years I told myself: Ok, now you can do what you're best at!" But, like I said, it was my style that chose me.

DO YOU ADVISE YOUR CLIENTS WHEN THEY ASK YOU FOR PARTICULAR SUBJECTS OR CHARACTERS? FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN

THEY ASK FOR MARILYN, DO YOU SUGGEST A PARTICULAR POSE OR PICTURE THAT YOU LIKE?

Most of my clients at the moment have also become friends. When I start a job with someone I spend lots of time with them. Usually it works like this: the client comes into my studio and says "I want this!" but then we make a decision together. The client tells me his ideas, I choose about ten photographs of subjects that he's asked for and then we see which one would be right for the part of the body that's going to be tattooed. Then I add my atmosphere and my colours. I want satisfaction for both of us. Once the work has started, I'll make a few suggestions. Every customer has something different; I've never done the same tattoo twice.

TATTOO ARTIST

GREECE IS ONE OF THE RICHEST COUNTRIES IN EUROPE IN TERMS OF HISTORY AND CULTURE. THERE MUST BE SOME REFLECTION OF ANCIENT HELLAS IN YOUR ART, SINCE WE'RE ALL INFLUENCED BY OUR CULTURE IN SOME FORM OR OTHER. WHAT IS IT IN YOUR CASE?

It's true, Greece is extremely rich in history and culture. But until a few years ago, tattooing hardly existed in Greece. I'm happy to be one of the first Greek tattoo artists to have travelled so much and I'm proud to have participated in so many conventions. Right now people know that there are two or three good tattoo artists in Greece, and it's a great honour for me to be one of them. However I don't think our culture influences our way of tattooing. People aren't attracted to ancient Greek art, they're more into Japanese style, realistic, Chicano, American style, Hollywood stars and all this has nothing to do with the ancient traditions of my country. And besides, ancient traditional designs cannot be modified because they would lose their meaning.

YOU HAVE A STUDIO IN THESSALONIKI. AND I UNDERSTAND IT MEANT A LOT TO YOU TO HAVE A TATTOO PARLOUR IN THIS PARTICULAR CITY. COULD I ASK YOU WHY?

Lots of people ask me why I stay in Greece. You know the economy is in bad shape and I could earn much more working elsewhere. But like I said before, I come from a poor family, I grew up alone with my Mother and now that things are fine I don't want for anything more. I don't need anything else. I love my country, my studio, my friends, my dogs and my Vespa... I don't need anything else. I travel, I take part in conventions, I do guest spots, I earn enough and this is fine for me. I don't want to be rich; I love my lifestyle and the fact that I have my own studio here. If one day things should go wrong then I'll move, but right now I'm really happy as I am.

WHAT'S THE TATTOO SCENE LIKE IN GREECE?

That's a good question. I reckon the scene is pretty good right now. I say





this because in the last two years I've seen lots of artists grow and improve. It's easy for them now; they can learn by doing apprenticeships with older and more talented artists. There is some real talent out there. And if you have a good teacher you can learn the technical part in two or three years and then you're there. I hope I can help to improve the scene and I believe it's going to get better. Lots of people recognise the fact that Greece has lots of talented tattoo artists. It's the same situation in other countries, Poland and Russia for example; there's new talent, something is growing and this wasn't the case ten years ago.

THE MOST IMPORTANT CONVENTION IS ATHENS, RIGHT?

DO YOU EVER TAKE PART IN IT? WHICH OTHER CONVENTIONS DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN?

The Athens convention is the only one in Greece. It's a good convention, but it's not the most important one for me. I've been lots of times, but I didn't go last year, for instance (I was busy with a charity project at Rock'n'Ink in Germany). To tell you the truth I don't know yet if I'll be going next year. However, I went to Las Vegas, Miami (to LaPalooza), Berlin, Paris, London, Brussels, Milan, Bucharest, Manchester and many others. At the beginning it was important for me to travel and show my work off to others, I needed to do that to get known. Now I'm a bit more relaxed. Some venues are fundamental: London, Berlin and Milan in particular. Here you

get the best artists and there's a lot to learn, to help you to improve.

CAN WE TALK ABOUT YOUR STUDIO, TATTOOLIGANS?

Tattooligans is like a family to me. There are seven of us; five tattoo artists and two guys who help us in the shop. The great thing is we are all good friends, we go out together, we travel together which for me is fantastic, and it's worth more to me than money. I don't like studios where there are just 'partners'. I want the guys who work for me to be happy, I want to give them as much as possible... And they give me lots in return. It's not just about work, but life as well.

BLACK HAS A POWERFUL IMPACT

TATTOO ARTIST

IN YOUR TATTOOS, IT'S AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN YOUR WORK WHICH DEFINES SUBJECTS WITHOUT THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SHADING. DO YOU AGREE THAT THIS IS THE CASE?

The truth is I really love colour. But I think the most important aspect of a tattoo is that it lasts the test of time... And in order for this to happen you have to use black. It's also a question of atmosphere: in Greece we have the sun and the sea, we swim and we sunbathe, people's skin is darker and so you have to use more black to get a good and lasting result. I love colours and I use them a lot, but black is the most important element for me.

YOU MANAGE TO LEND A 3-DIMENSIONALITY TO YOUR SUBJECTS WITH YOUR USE OF COLOUR. COULD YOU EXPLAIN HOW YOU DO THIS, WITHOUT GIVING TOO MANY SECRETS AWAY OBVIOUSLY?

It's not about secrets; when somebody gives me a picture of a subject to tattoo I look at it with my own eyes. Photos are flat and you only see part of the subject: you have to add what's missing to make them three-dimensional, such as shading and light. When I start a job I use fantasy and imagination. I look at the light and the position of the colours, I observe things really closely. Before I use my hands I use my eyes and my heart. The results depend upon how you observe and feel what you see. It's not always easy...Sometime when

I'm watching a movie I concentrate so closely on the images that I lose track of the film...

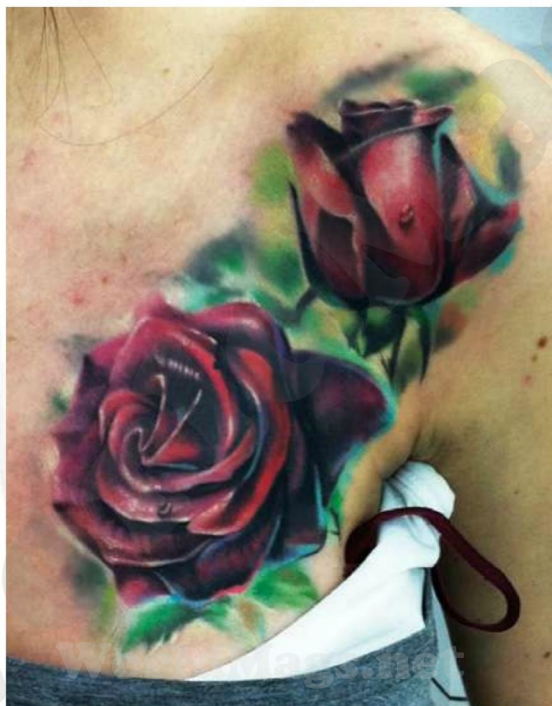
BIG PIECES FOR BACKS OR CHEST SEEM WELL ADAPTED TO YOUR STYLE OR PERHAPS YOU PREFER SMALL, REALLY DETAILED PIECES. YOUR TATTOOS OFTEN SEEM LIKE SUBJECTS SEEN UNDER A LARGE MAGNIFYING GLASS.

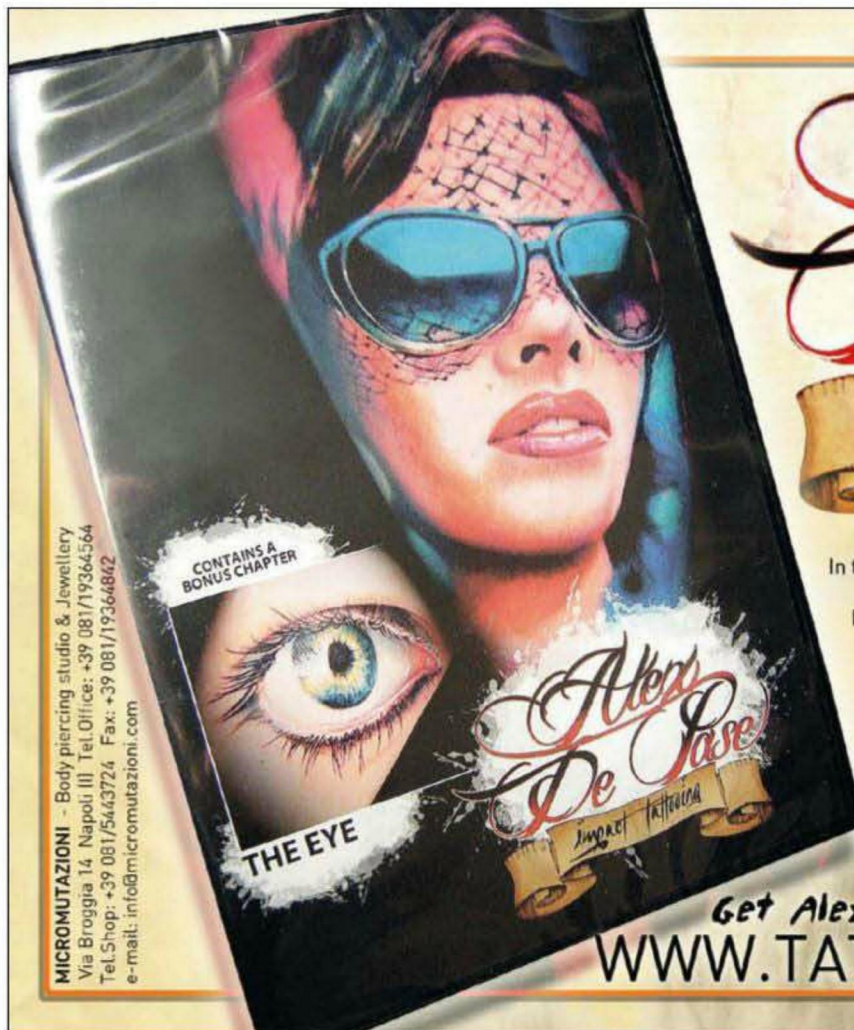
I use the size that suits each part of the body. I always try to do the right thing in the right place and the size isn't important. Realistic takes a long time and lots of concentration even with small pieces, but if I have to do really large pieces, like a sleeve, I'd need a year or a year and a half. I adore doing these big jobs because I love inventing stories... I feel like a film producer who is putting together various scenes to make a film, which has a beginning and an end.

IN WHICH OTHER COUNTRY, APART FROM GREECE, DO YOU FEEL MOST COMFORTABLE WORK-WISE?

To answer this question I have to explain that for me tattoo is all about making contact with other people. When I work, it's not just with a canvas or a wall but with a human being. So it's important that people talk to me in a certain way, that they explain what they want and that they understand me. In Greece sometimes it happens that I get asked for a Maori, and they take it badly when I say no. I think the Mediterranean culture has a lot to

do with this...People get angry and don't accept a refusal. However, when I was in Australia I met loads of fantastic, open and kind people and I was able to talk to them and confront them. It's like that in America too, people are always smiling and they listen to you. Even in Switzerland where I've also worked, people are always calm and tranquil. So for me it's more about the people rather than the places. What's my ideal place? Anywhere, just so long as I can empathise with others.





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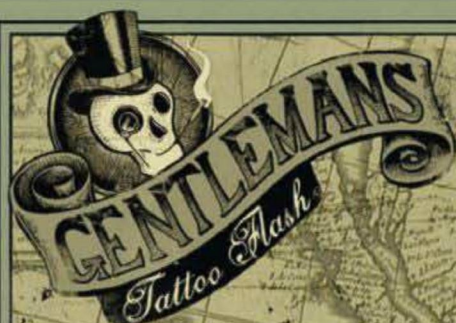
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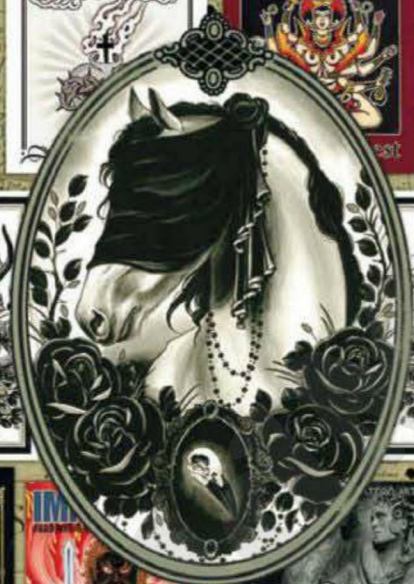


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BRIGHTON TATTOO CONVENTION

JANUARY 28th/29th, 2012

Text by Roy Micuzzi
Photos by Debora Marcati



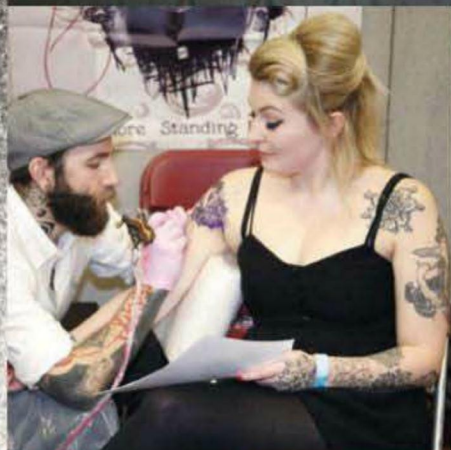
Stewart Robson, Frith Street Tattoo, London



CONVENTION

LET'S FACE IT, BRIGHTON IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE, BRIGHTON! IN OTHER WORDS IT'S A RENDEZVOUS NOT TO BE MISSED BY FANS OF TRADITIONAL TATTOOING AND IT'S A GREAT WAY TO START THE YEAR WITH THE MOST COLOURFUL, SOPHISTICATED AND VIBRANT TATTOO ART. THIS TIME, OVERWHELMED BY THE CROWD WE VENTURED AROUND 150 BOOTHS AT THE LEGENDARY BRIGHTON RACECOURSE WHILST AROUND US YOU COULD HEAR GREAT QUALITY BRITISH MUSIC (ALL WELLER TO NAME JUST ONE) AND AMAZING FIREWORKS LIT UP OUR ENCHANTED FACES. BRIGHTON, IS THIS WHERE THE PARTY IS? YOU BET...

BRIGHTON TATTOO CONVENTION



Alexandre Wuillot, La Maine Bleu, Mons, Belgium



Stewart Robson, Frith Street Tattoo, London, UK

It's the fifth one! Yes the fifth edition of the prestigious **Brighton Tattoo Convention** was held on 28th and 29th of January, the "traditional" rendezvous (it must be said) with what is happening in the exciting world of tattooing on the other side of the Channel. This year, more than 150 of the cream of international tattoo artists gathered at the historical Brighton Racecourse, on the hill overlooking the bay, to give free rein

to their machines and their fantasy with images on skin, traditional being the main protagonist throughout the two days.

These tattoo artists were rewarded with a huge crowd of visitors who went around the booths of **Sandor Jordan** from Akira Tattoo in Essen, **Stizzo** from Best of Times in Milano, **Noble** from Black Cobra in Maryland (United States), **Deno** from Circus

Tattoo in Madrid, **Sim** and **Leigh** from Cosmic Tattoo in Colchester, **Dalmiro** from Dalmiro Tattoo (Sweden), the Belgian **Dan Sinnes**, the Spaniard **El Monga**, the Italians **Pepe** and **Zuno** from Electric Tattooing in Viareggio, **Pino Cafaro** from Elektrik Revolver in Braunschweig (Germany) **Oliver Peck** from Elm Street Tattoo in Dallas, the Brits **Antony** and **Mark** from Evil from the Needle in London, **Andrea** and **Steve** from Family Business in London and **Naresh**, **Ely**, **Julia** and **Harry** from Flamin 8 (again from London), **Richie Clarke** from Forever True tattoo in Liverpool, **Emiliano** and **Stewart** from Frith Street Tattoo in London, the orientals **Horiken**, **Horimasa**, **Horishin** guests of the wonderful Gomineko Books, the famous trio made up of **Jason**, **Adam**

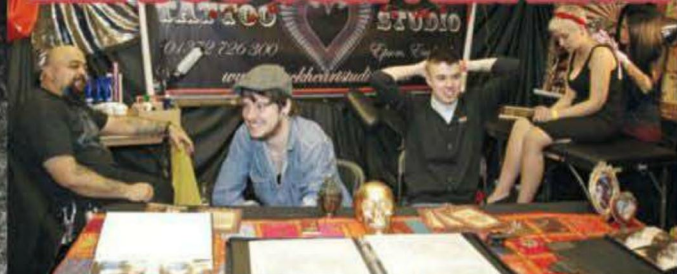


Valerie Vorgas, Frith Street Tattoo, London, UK



Endre Szabo, Tattooend, London, UK

BRIGHTON TATTOO CONVENTION



Clod The Ripper, Milano City Ink, Milan, Italy



Jose Lopez, Lowrider Tattoo, Los Angeles, USA



Prizeman, Eternal Art, Chelmsford, Essex, UK



Lee, Hadfield, Thomas Street Tattoo, Llanelli, Galle, UK

and **Chris** from IN2U in Brighton (they were playing at home as were their colleagues **Lucy**, **Paula** and **Woody** from the same studio, IN2U), **Claudia Sabe** from **Jolie Rouge**, **Drew Horner** from Living Art in Lidköping (Sweden), **Jose Lopez** and **Big Sleeps** from Lowrider in California, **Jondix** from LTW in Barcelona, the team from Brighton Magnum Opus including the boss **Phil Kyle** (one man, one legend) plus **Adrian** and **Guen**, the Italian **Clod The Ripper** from Milano City Ink, **Jo Harrison** from Modern Body Art in Birmingham, **Luca Ortis** from New Wave in London (a lot of names from London this year!), **Sergio Messina** from Shock Tattoo in Rome, **Viola Von Hell** from The Ten Bells Tattoo Studio

in Rome and many, many others who are too numerous to mention due to our usual lack of space.

This comprehensive list however, was a great promotion for the Brighton Tattoo Convention showing the diversity of an event which, whilst dedicated to traditional (after all it is a seaside location!) had many other expertly executed styles on show. The band **All Weller** was equally intriguing and electric (extremely electric!) with their tribute to the famous Modfather, Paul Weller covering his Jam, Style Council and solo artist days.

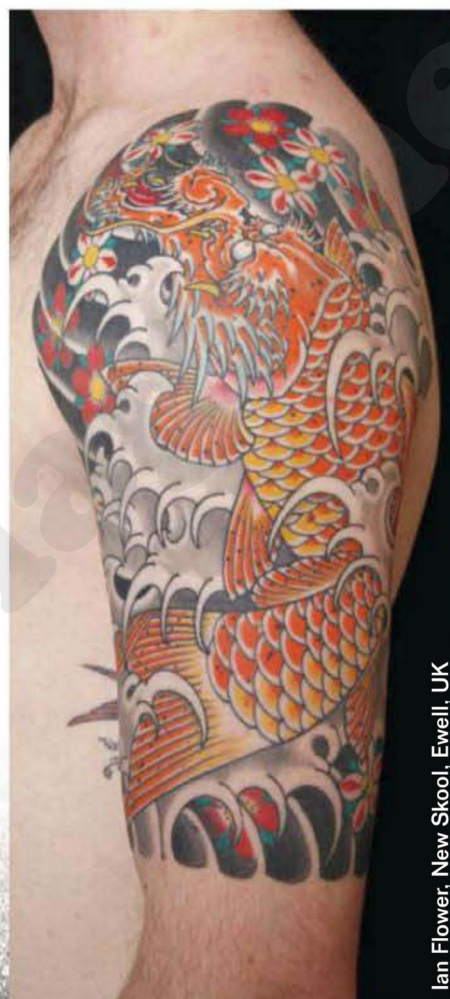
The Rocker Covers and the team from **Born Bad DJ's** entertained the crowd with irresistible music whilst around

us a firework display went off at regular intervals. There was also the usual superior art gallery festival.

As you can see for yourselves in the dozens of photos which make up our review of Brighton – in this its fifth year – it revealed the same concentration of style, energy and good vibrations with genuine passion circulating amongst the visitors, some of which were tattooed from head to toe. Never mind the bitterly cold weather or those who weren't able to enjoy a good weekend in the town made famous in the late 70's for the film *Quadrophenia* and the mod revival phenomenon. Now that you know what you've missed, there can be no excuses for not attending the sixth Brighton Tattoo Convention next year! You can guarantee it will be worth it...



Jay Parker, Skin Illustration, Maidston, Kent, UK



Ian Flower, New Skool, Ewell, UK

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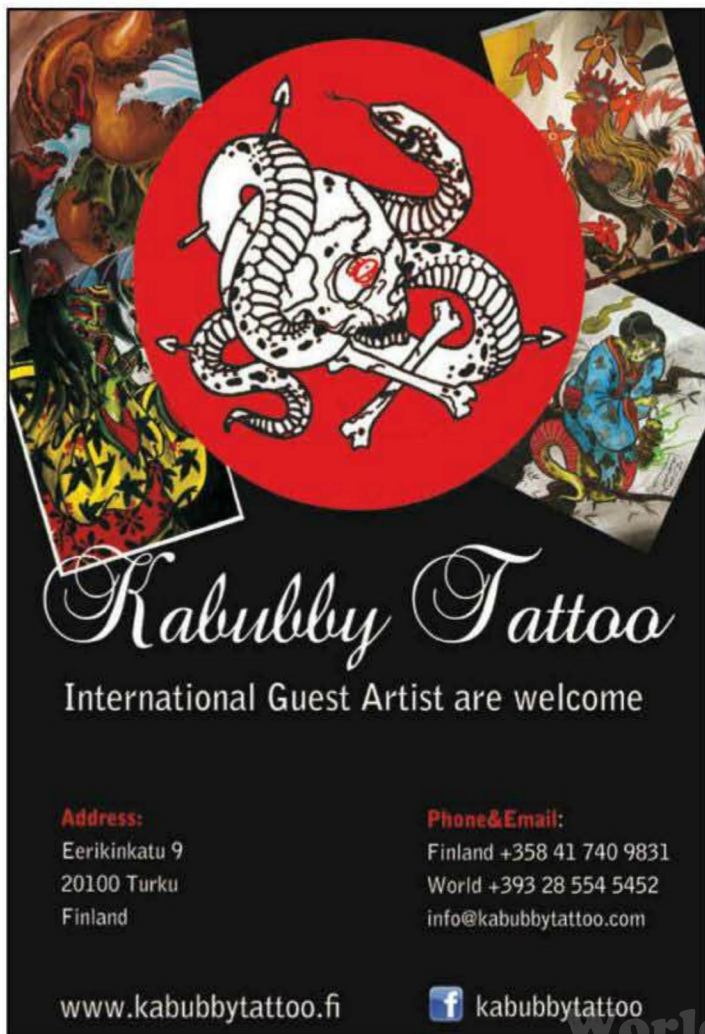
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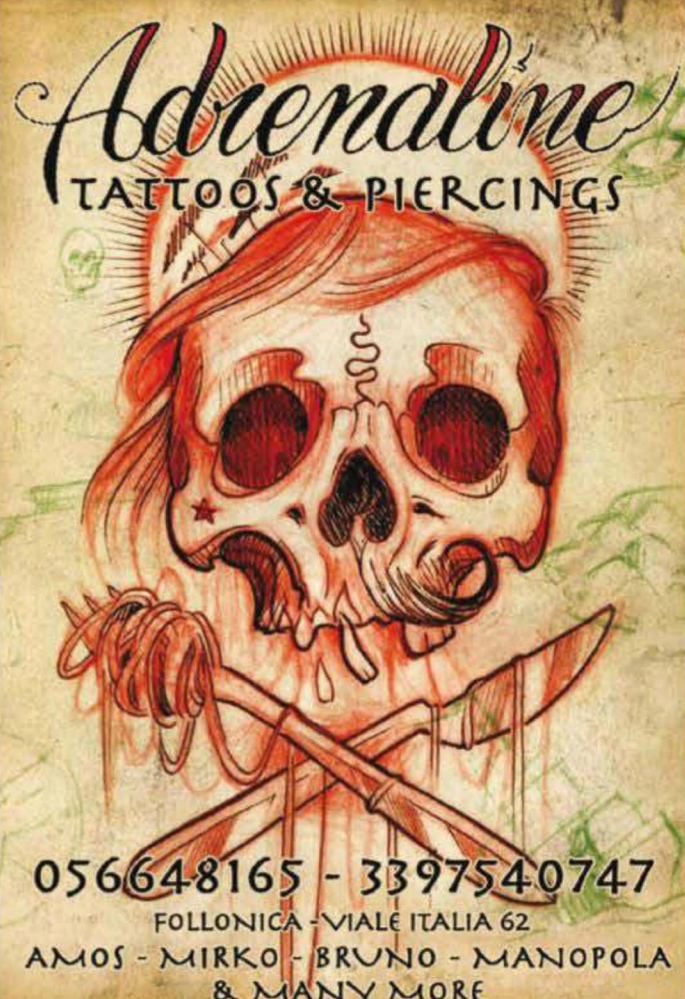
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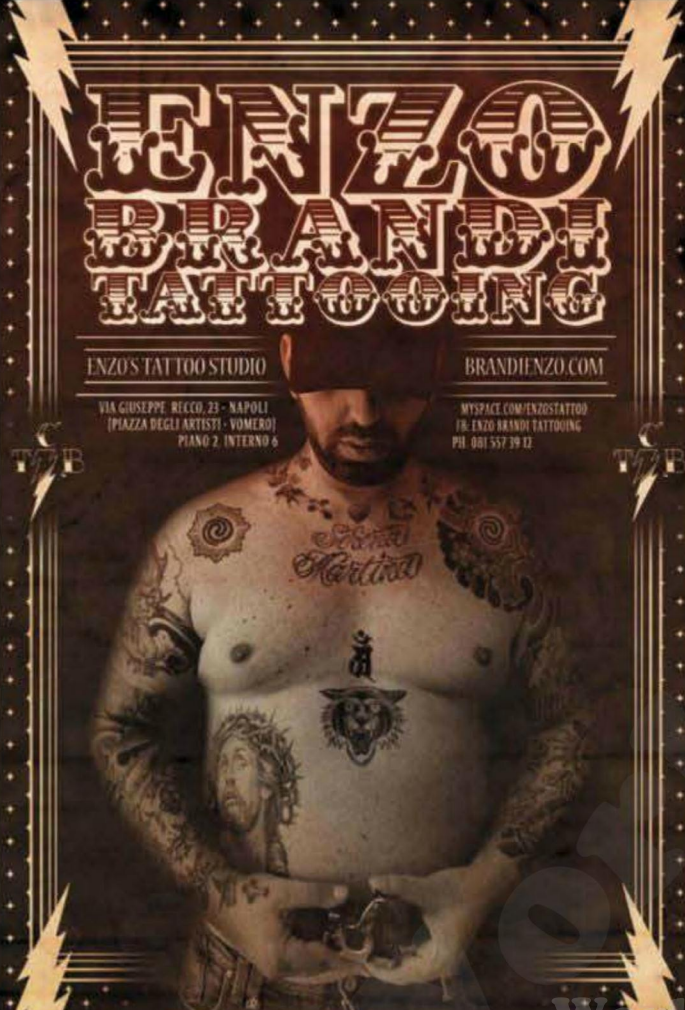
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Carlos Torres

TAINTED LOVE

Text by Maurizio Candeloro
Photos: courtesy of the artist



WWW.CARLOSTORRESART.COM



H I CARLOS, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL US YOUR STORY?

Sure! My name is Carlos Torres, and I'm 34 years old. I was born and raised in Los Angeles, I am one of three siblings and raised by a single parent. I have always had an interest in art and thanks to my mom's work ethic I am working harder than ever at becoming better. At the moment I am a tattoo artist and artist working in San Pedro, a suburb of Los Angeles. My two partners and I own a studio called Timeline Gallery where we really try to push at becoming better artists and all the art that influences tattooing.

YOUR PAINTINGS CONVEY A CERTAIN FASCINATION FOR THE MACABRE, CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHERE THIS INTEREST COMES FROM AND HOW IT DEVELOPED?

Since I was little I have always watched horror movies. We also grew up down the street from a comic book shop so I would always go buy the *Fangoria* magazine. My mom used to wonder why I drew so many skulls as a kid and I had to remind



her that she used to take us to see horror movies! (laughs)

IN ADDITION TO SKULLS AND SKELETONS, OTHERS SUBJECTS SEEM TO RECUR IN YOUR WORK. CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THEM? WHAT DO THEY REPRESENT FOR YOU?

I know that in my latest work I have been painting a lot more women and fabrics. I really like the idea of beauty

with macabre, rarities and oddities. Things like Venetian masks and old antiques seem to have that feel. I want to push forward into surrealism so I am hoping that by spending a lot of time with realism, portrait and figurative painters I can get towards what I am seeing in my head. Sometimes I paint from a situation that has happened in my life whether it be the sadness I felt at that time or the beauty of this world.



YOU HAVE A VERY MATERIAL WAY OF PAINTING, ALMOST SCULPTURAL. WHAT'S YOUR TECHNIQUE?

I am not really too sure of the technique I use. I do know that I want a lot of depth to my paintings. Almost as if you were able to walk into the painting. I'm not sure that I am achieving it but that is eventually my goal.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PAINTING? HOW DID YOU LEARN?

I haven't been painting seriously for very long. I have always done art and painting but I'm not too sure I knew what I was doing. Maybe five or six years ago is when I really took an interest in it. Living in LA has helped a lot because there are so many good artists there. I started to attend a lot of workshops, seminars and if lucky enough some private lessons. I also learn a lot by going to museums, art openings and galleries. Like tattooing I am always intimidated by the artists I look up to but somehow I have become friends with a lot of them. They have helped me so much along the way. Painting with them makes me realize that I have so much to learn.

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST WORK?

My first work was a horrible little painting from when I was a kid that my mom still keeps. I hope it never gets shown! (laughs) I used to draw a lot in charcoal and in acrylic paints, but never really knew what I was doing. Not until I did the "patron" painting did I realize how much I loved and had fun painting.

YOUR CANVAS FOR INK-AND-IRON 2011 IS REMARKABLE. HOW DID THIS WORK COME ABOUT?





Thank you very much for the compliment! I have painted the posters for the last four years and every year they tell me the theme they want for their show and they let me take it from there. The show is held on the Queen Mary, an old cruise liner so I wanted to show a bit of elegance mixed with tattooing and of course a skull! (laughs) Mary Antoinette with a twist!

THIS WORK ALSO DEMONSTRATES THAT YOU PAY GREAT ATTENTION TO DETAIL. WHERE DID YOU GET INSPIRATION TO REBUILD SUCH DETAILED SUBJECTS?

Originally I am more attracted to the painterly style, very loose. Maybe because of tattooing I know that art

on skin must be a lot more tightened up. I hope to combine a style with both where I can have a lot of detail in the place I want the viewer to focus on, and loosen up on the less important areas of the painting. Workshops with portrait artists have helped me a lot with paying attention to detail.

TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE PHOTOGRAPHY AND MOVIES INFLUENCED YOUR WAY OF PAINTING?

Photography and movies have helped a lot. I think I have always had a pretty good imagination and have always been somewhat of a day dreamer, so it helps with creativity. I do have to say though that the biggest help in my painting has

been painting from life. I think you can learn so much more than when painting from photographs and it helps you to pick up what the camera misses. I have been fortunate to be invited to paint on Sundays with Hussar with live models. A few of us including Nikko Hurtado and Carlos Rojas attend and I think it shows in all of our paintings.

WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS?

That list can go on forever! All of the masters from times before us. Some of my favorite painters today include Michael Hussar, Shawn Barber, Kevin Lewellyn, Sean Cheetham, Jeremy Lipking, Kent Williams there are almost too many to name! I also like to draw a lot so I love seeing artists that work in graphite and charcoal. Hernandez's pastels have also had a big influence in my tattooing and painting.

HOW DO YOU CONVEY YOUR PAINTING EXPERIENCES AND SKILLS INTO TATTOO ART?

I am a firm believer that my paintings have helped my tattooing and my tattooing has helped my painting. I do mainly black and grey tattoos but painting has definitely helped me to understand values and depth so much more. Lately I have been setting up the composition for my tattoos as I would a painting but with a bit of a twist to go with the flow of the body.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING PROJECTS?

At the moment I am trying to do a lot of new paintings and hopefully put together a solo show. My goal is to have enough so maybe I can have a show early next year. It's been a little difficult trying to balance tattooing, painting and commissions but I am working hard at it.

CARLOS, THANK YOU FOR THIS INTERVIEW. DO YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING?

Yes. I would like to thank Tattoo Life for this honor. And to the people who have liked my work and are encouraging me along the way I am very grateful!

PEOPLE

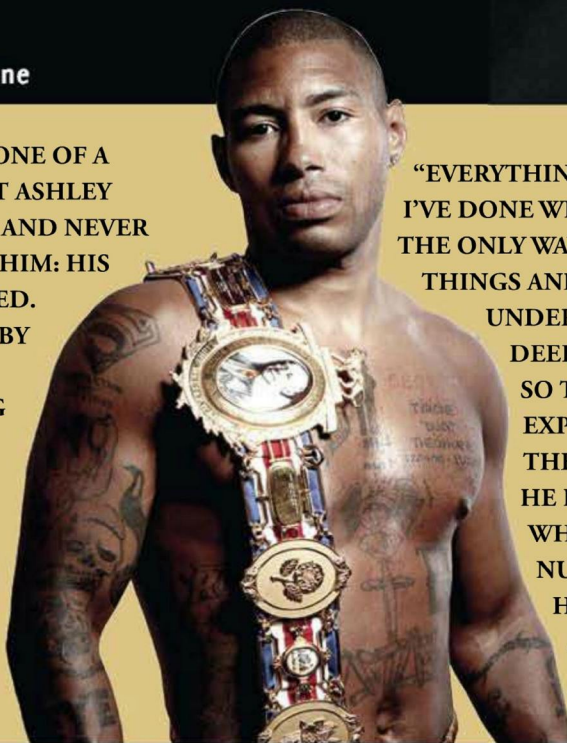
Ashley Treasure Theophane

MONEY, POWER, RESPECT

Text by M.C.

Photo: courtesy of Ashley Theophane

HIS VOICE IS ROUGH, WITH THE TONE OF A BOY WHO HAS JUST WOKEN UP. YET ASHLEY THEOPHANE HAS PASSED THIRTY AND NEVER MISSES A SINGLE DETAIL AROUND HIM: HIS EYES ARE BRIGHT AND DETERMINED. HE WAS INTRODUCED TO BOXING BY HIS FATHER - WHO TOOK HIM TO SEE SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING MATCHES - AND IS NOW THE ENGLISH LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPION. IN THE WORLD OF BOXING HE IS ALSO KNOWN AS 'THE TREASURE', BECAUSE HE WORKED HARD TO BE WHERE HE IS AND FOR SOME YEARS HAS NOT MISSED A SINGLE MEETING.



"EVERYTHING I'VE DONE IN MY LIFE, I'VE DONE WITH HARDSHIP. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I KNOW OF DOING THINGS AND IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO UNDERSTAND THEM AND GET DEEP SATISFACTION, SO MUCH SO THAT I COULDN'T BEGIN TO EXPLAIN ... " THE WEIGHT AND THE PLEASURES OF HIS LIFE HE HAS PRINTED ON HIS SKIN, WHICH IS COVERED WITH NUMEROUS TATTOOS, TELLING HIS TALE THROUGH IMAGES AND SYMBOLS WHICH ARE DEAR TO HIM.

A

SHLEY, TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I am the current British Light welterweight

champion. My reign has been just over a year. I have fought in Saint Lucia, Germany, America and England. I have also won in all those countries. I am 31 years old. I was born in Paddington, London.

I've trained with some of the world's greatest fighters in the toughest gyms in London, Belfast, Los Angeles, New Jersey and Brooklyn. I've also forged an enviable reputation for carving my own path in the sport of boxing. Talent

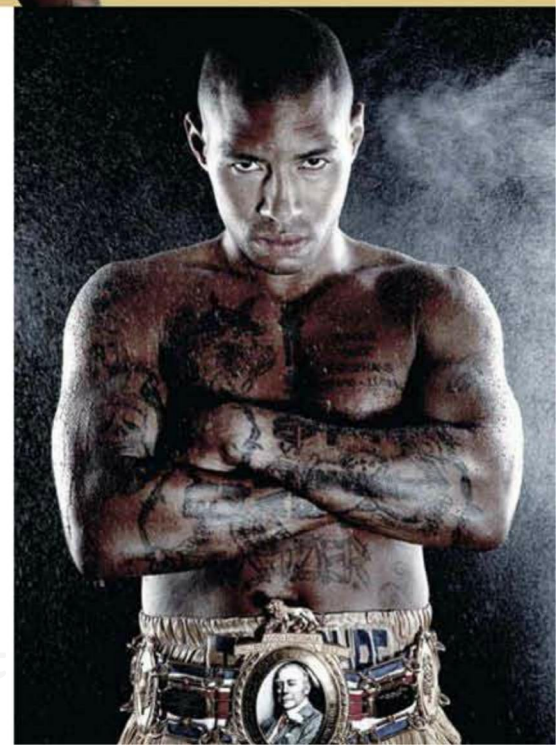
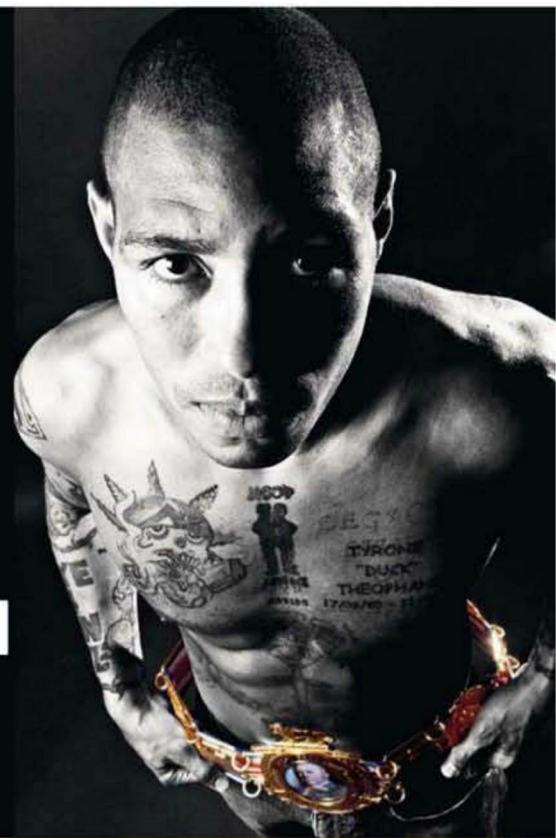
and determination have brought me this far and now I stand on the cusp of greatness.

YOU GOT SEVERAL TATTOOS SYMBOLIZING YOUR LIFE. WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE AND WHY?

I support Tottenham Hotspur football club and my tattoos of the club logo is a favourite of mine.

WHEN DID YOU START TATTOOING?

I got my first tattoo the week of my eighteenth birthday in 1998 at Rock-it Tattoos in Burnt Oak, London. Ever since then I have been hooked. I aim to cover my body except my face,



neck and hands. Sometimes people prejudge you because you have tattoos, which is a shame.

HOW YOU DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN BOXING?

I used to watch boxing with my father and I just enjoyed it. I was only four years old at the time so a few years later my parents allowed me to try it out and I loved it. I feel blessed to be able to be a professional boxer and make a living out of it. Many kids have childhood dreams but very few get to do them.

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST GOAL IN LIFE?

I want to be successful and make my mother proud. That is my biggest goal in life. In boxing I want to win titles and fight the world's best. I am currently doing that. I've won two International titles in Germany, I'm the European number one and I am currently British champion. I want to have a Treasure boxing gym which helps keep kids off the streets, make my Ashley Theophane sportswear (hoodstarsports.com) a success and my novel *Raised by the Hood* to be respected as a good piece of literature.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUCCESS AND STRENGTH?

To be successful you need strength, some days you may not be feeling motivated or inspired but that inner strength will drive you to be successful and your endeavours turn into reality.

WHO HAS BEEN YOUR TOUGHEST OPPONENT?

The French man Ali Oubaali was probably my toughest opponent.

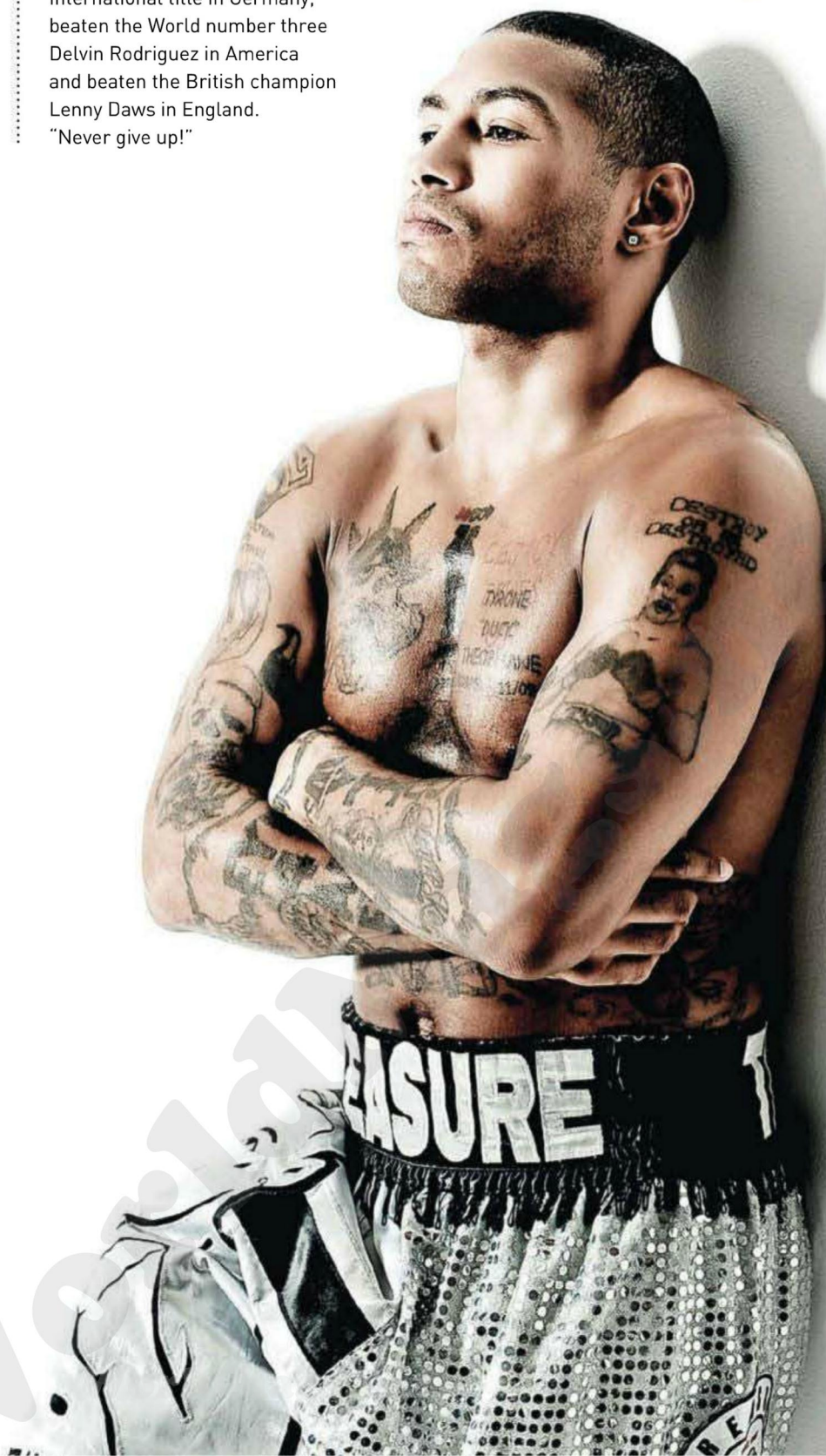
YOU HAVE WON 31 FIGHTS. WHICH ONE GAVE YOU THE MOST SATISFACTION?

I have a few fights that have meant the world to me at different stages in my career. Beating former world champion Demarcus Corley in 2008 proved to me I could mix it with world class fighters. Fighting in Saint Lucia was emotional as I have many family members from there. Beating the British champion proved all the people who doubted me in Britain wrong. I've had an extraordinary career so far and I'm loving it. All the hard work is worth it.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM DEFEAT?

Winning and losing is part of any sport. All the best athletes have lost but that pain of losing drives you to work harder in the gym and work on some weak points in your game. Every time I lost I always bounced back big time. I've lost once in the last four years and that was to world number two Danny Garcia. Since then I have won the IBO International title in Germany, beaten the World number three Delvin Rodriguez in America and beaten the British champion Lenny Daws in England. "Never give up!"

twitter: @ashleytheophane
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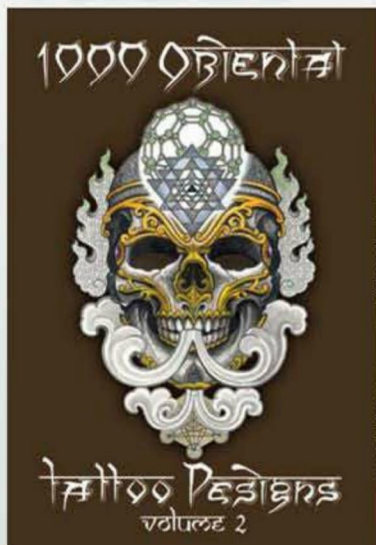
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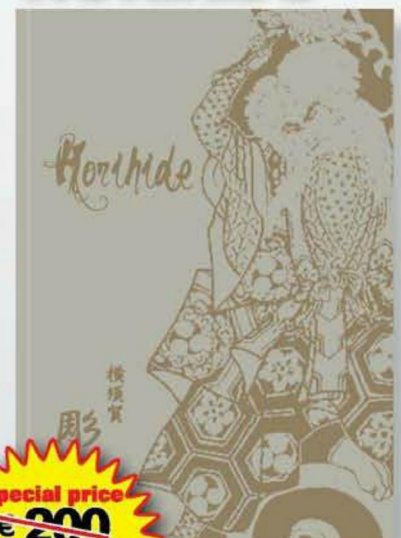
West that decorated the first tattoo shops with vessels, ships, Cadillac cars, sport cars, women with feathers and jewels and the world of the circus that in the 20's became the most curious and unique American fashion. Dreams for the dreamers that captured the fantasy of customers to take them on journeys in faraway worlds, re-arranged by the Spider Murphy's tattoo shop in its amazing tattoo icons, finally collected and published in this book.

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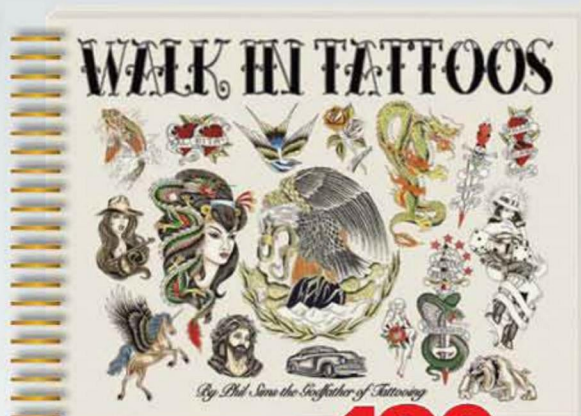
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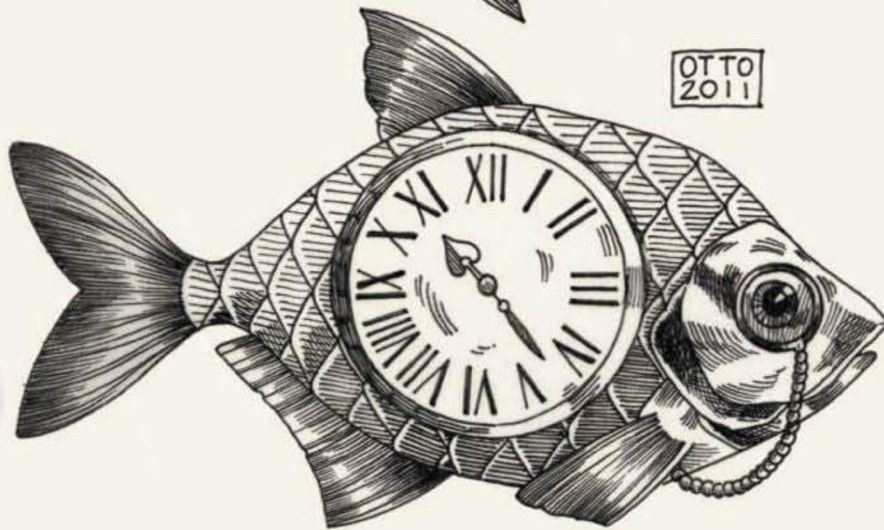
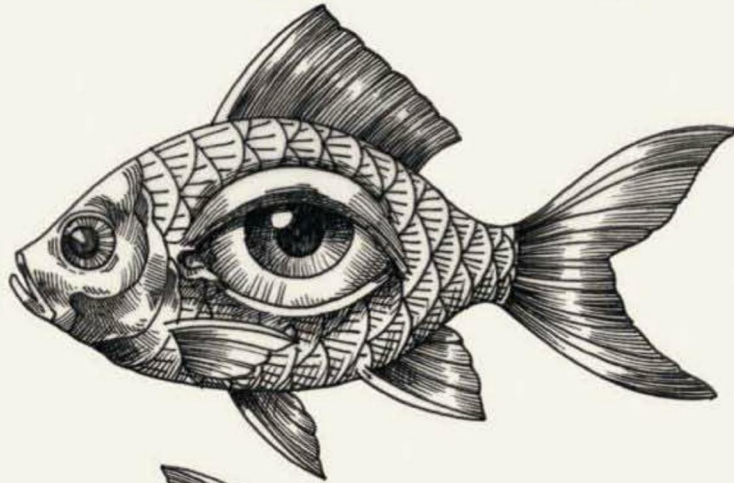


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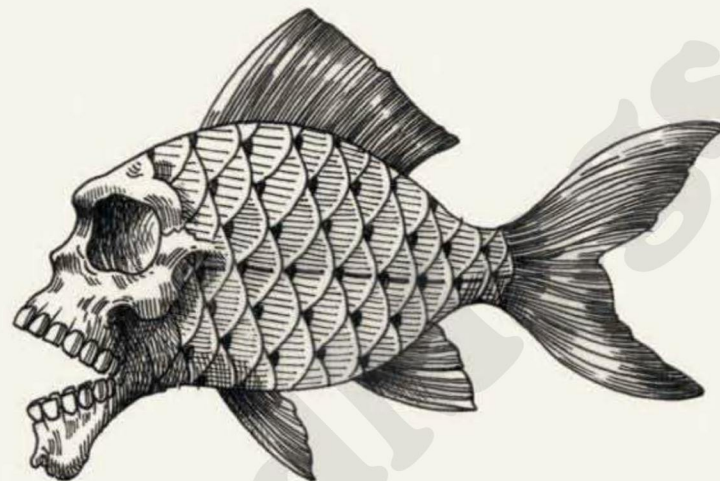
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FLASH

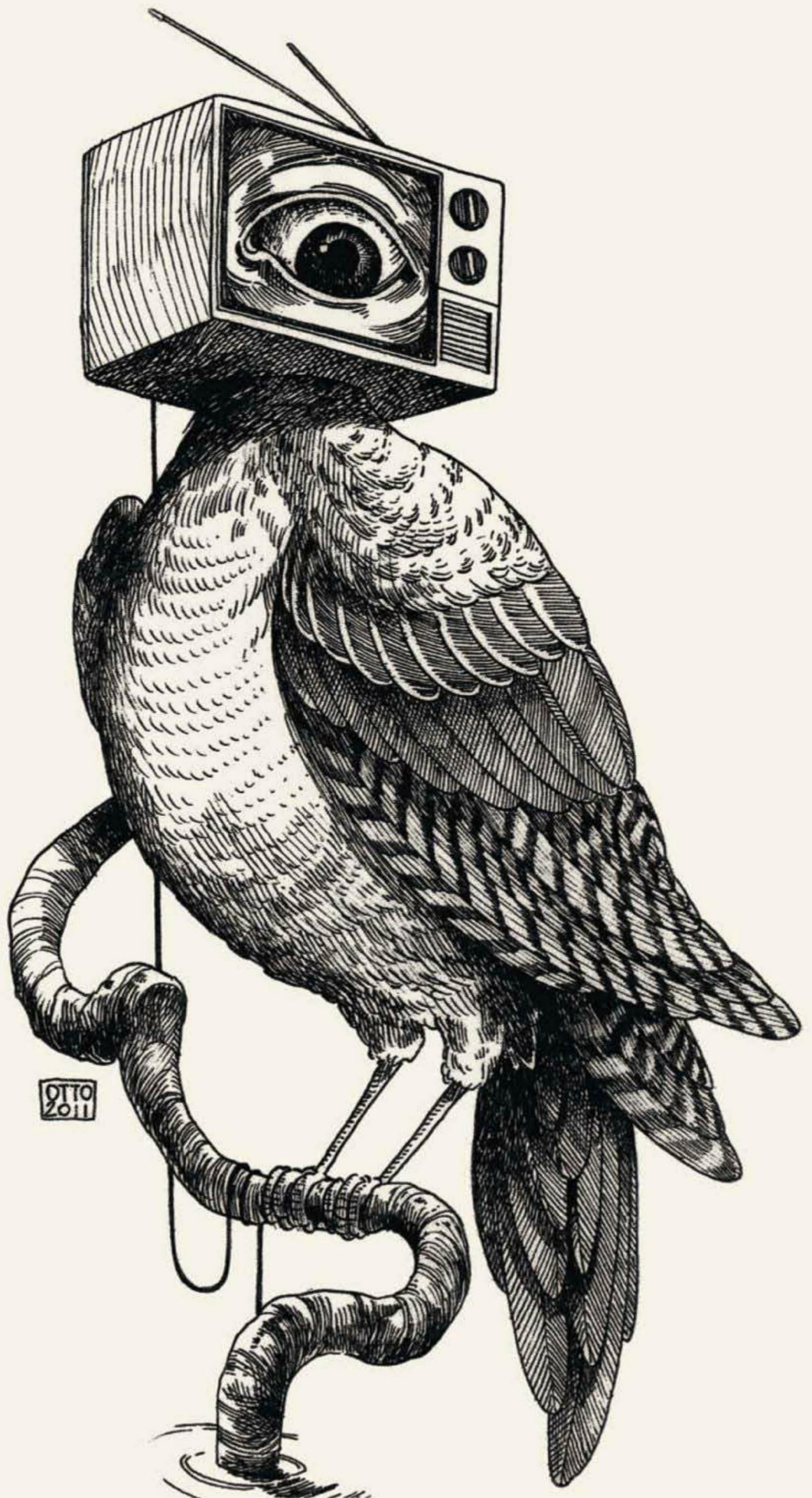
I started drawing in ink a long time ago but I perfected this technique only recently and produced a set of paintings which I have seen come to life on skin. These designs create a perfect union between surreal subjects and the strong classical subjects which are reminiscent of antique aquatint etchings. The project is the result of research into the contrast between technique and the subject and reflects the strong influence of Victorian style on surreal and metaphysical style, which has always been characteristic of my designs. Cages, eyes, televisions and headless people are figurative symbols with utopian significance as well as critical significance. The composition of the image is simple; there is usually only

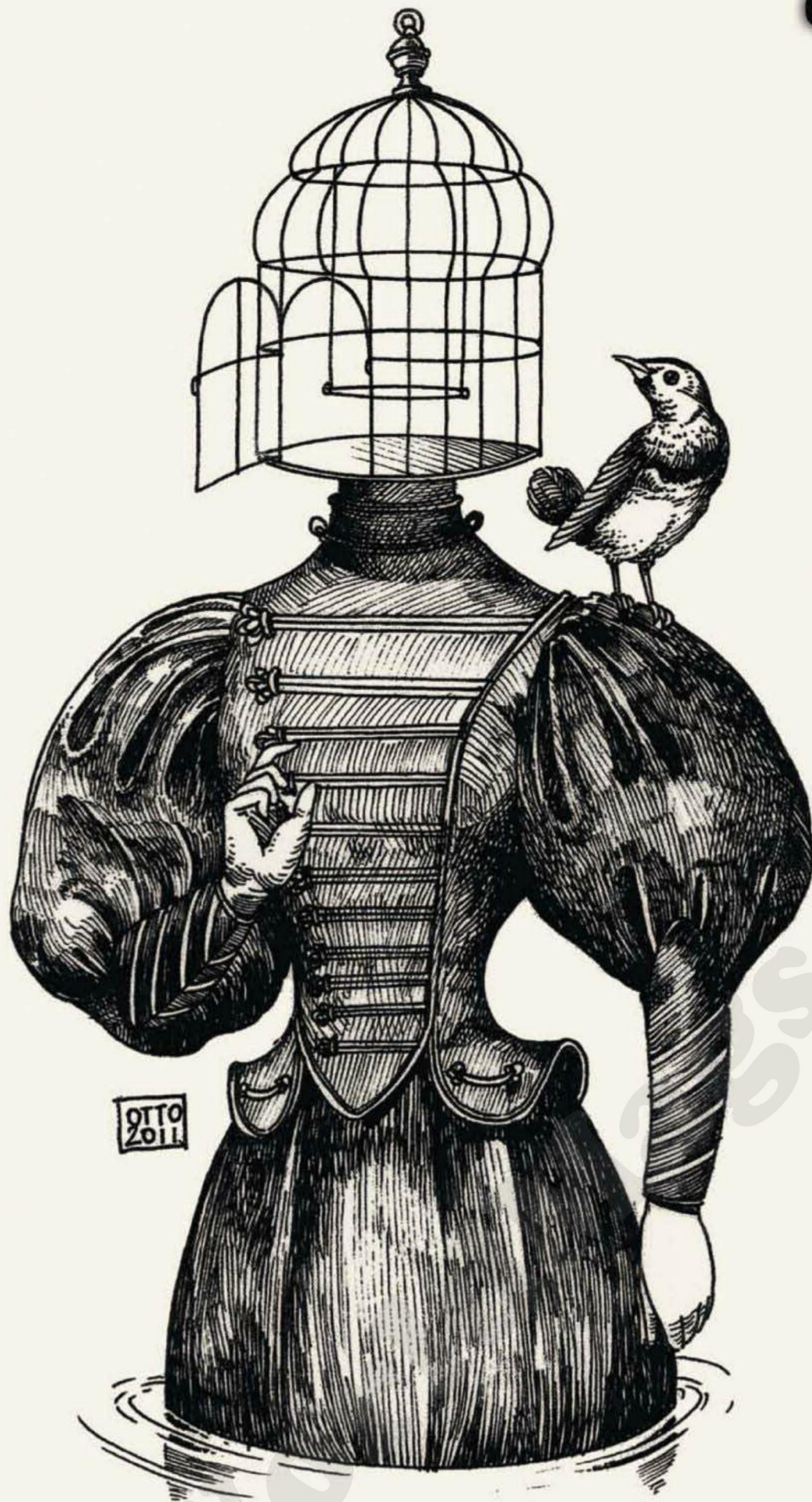


one subject. The dominant theme is really the contrast which, through metamorphosis and grafting places the elements in a dimension without space and time. At the moment I'm taking this project forward and developing a series of new paintings which will be inspired by these concepts and

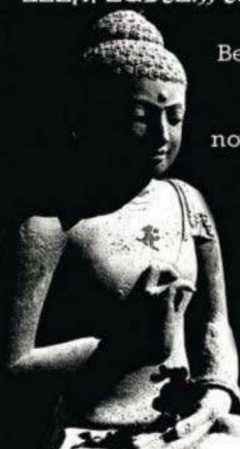
characterised by simplicity. I'm hoping to convey a direct message by producing really strong images.

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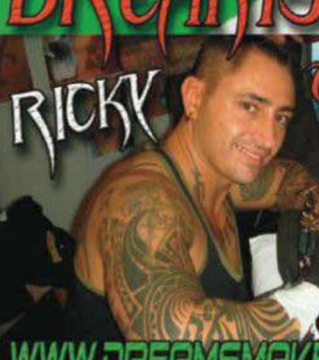


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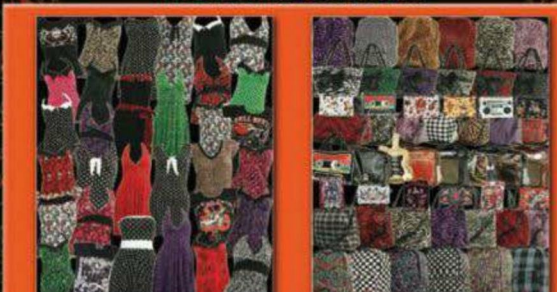
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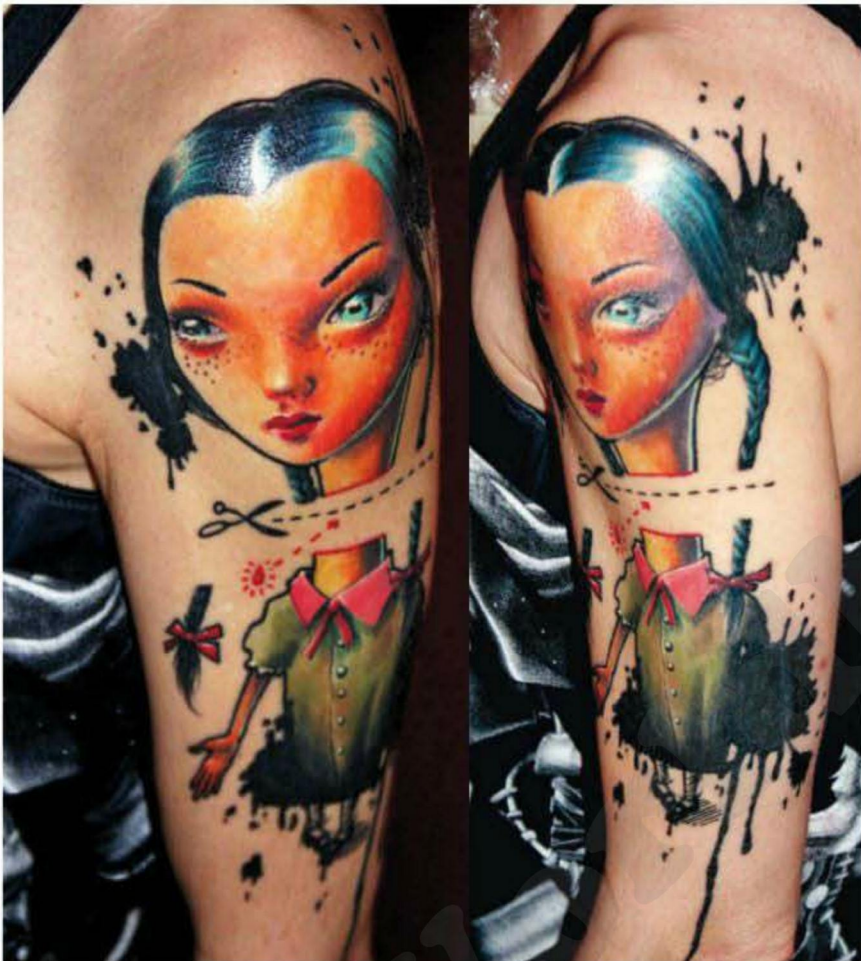
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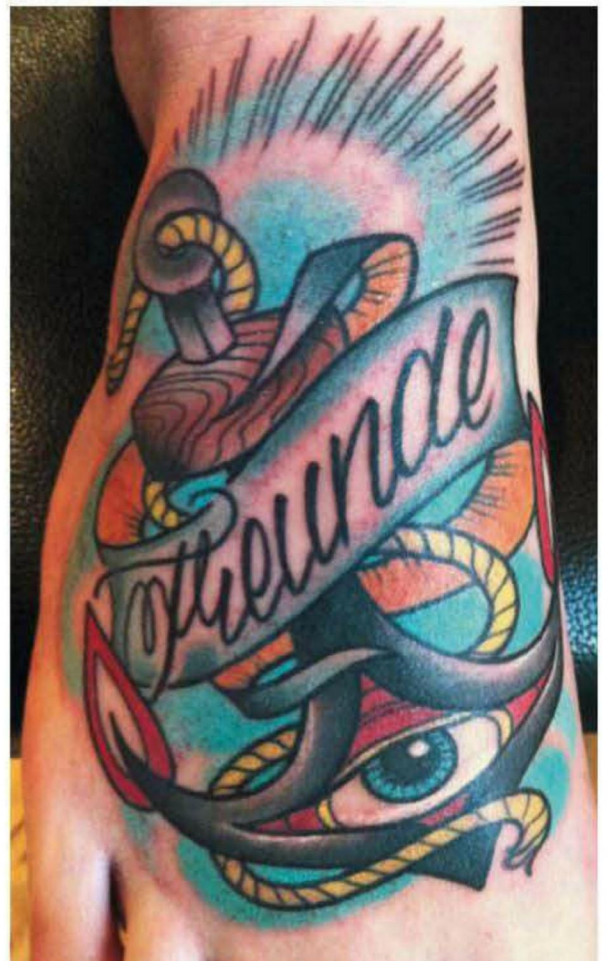
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